

Silent Sherlock

Sherlock Holmes and the Silent Film Era

by

Howard Ostrom

"You have a grand gift of silence, Watson," said he. "It makes you quite invaluable as a companion".

Sherlockian scholar Ron Haydock appropriately stated, "Researching the Sherlock Holmes films made since 1900 has become like trying to reconstruct the history of Ancient Egypt or even the prehistoric past: some artifacts remain, but the life itself has long vanished."¹ What Mr. Haydock is referring to is the major problem that many of the films from the silent film era (1900-1930) no longer exist.

As a collector of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson autographs and photos, I worshipped early Sherlockian scholars of media Holmes, such as Michael Pointer, Ronald Burt De Waal, Chris Steinbrunner & Norman Michaels, Robert W. Pohle, Jr. & Douglas C. Hart, Gordon E. Kelley, and the afore mentioned Ron Haydock. However, the reference works of these excellent fellows were handicapped by having to resort to finding clippings and bits of information from hard to obtain old show business trade journals and film magazines. Today, thanks to these same old films magazines and trade journals being made searchable by being downloaded to the internet, through universities, libraries, and private grants, I will be able to list for you, in chronological order, many of the Sherlock Holmes related films of the silent film era.

1900 (copyrighted 1903) - **"Sherlock Holmes Baffled"** - Actor Unknown.
American Mutoscope and Biograph Company

"Sherlock Holmes Baffled" was created as a Mutoscope, to be shown in an arcade on a Mutoscope machine to one person at a time. It is a very short film less than a minute, with a burglar appearing and disappearing to a confused Holmes (in a William Gillette like robe). What has 'baffled' Sherlockians for over a century is the name of the Sherlock Holmes actor. Is it possible that Sidney Olcott one of the first great directors was the Sherlock Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes Baffled"? He left Toronto to go to New York and work for the Company that made it, starting out as an actor (a similar story to Gilbert M.

¹ Haydock, Ron, "Deerstalker, Holmes & Watson on Screen" 1978 pg. 2

Anderson, refer to next listing or my article “The Case of The Vitagraph Holmes” for more on that). He would have been 28 at the time, the age and his look in photos from that period fit. He would have had the curiosity to be in such a project, learning his trade to becoming a great director. His interest and familiarity with the character Sherlock Holmes is proven by his making of the Sherlock Holmes film "The Mystery of the Bride in White" (1908). Olcott also made such films "The Amateur Detective" (1907), "The Old Sleuth Detective" (1908), and “The Railroad Detective” (1908), so it follows he might have been a Sherlockian. As a lad of 22 in Toronto he may have even crossed paths with, or been inspired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's visit there. I wonder???



**“Sherlock Holmes Baffled”
Sidney Olcott (Perhaps??)**

A very good description of how the 'flip-show' “Sherlock Holmes Baffled” was rediscovered by Michael Pointer in 1968, and most of what is know about the making of the 'flip-show' and the characters in it can be found at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherlock_Holmes_Baffled

View a nice HD version of "Sherlock Holmes Baffled" at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmfCrlgY-c>

1905 - “The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes” , or “Held For Ransom” (UK) - Gilbert M. Anderson (1880 - 1971) as Sherlock Holmes, The Vitagraph Company.



Gilbert M. Anderson

The movie is lost, however Vitagraph advertisements in "Moving Picture World" give us this synopsis; "The millionaire's child is kidnapped. Her frenzied father visits Sherlock Holmes. Sherlock Holmes meets the bandits at their rendezvous, and after many thrilling adventures and narrow escapes rescues the child. Sherlock Holmes' apartment in Baker Street, London a joyful reunion." A different Vitagraph ad tells us; "This shows one of the adventures of the noted detective in which he almost falls a victim to the band that signs itself 'The Sign of the Four'."

Read the article “The Case of the Vitagraph Holmes or, Cowboy in a Deerstalker” for more information about Gilbert M. Anderson as Sherlock Holmes.

<http://bakerstreetbabes.com/guest-article-the-case-of-the-vitagraph-holmes-or-cowboy-in-a-deerstalker-by-howard-ostrom/>

A trend of note in many of the films that will follow is that films made in countries without copyrights used the character Sherlock Holmes without permission from Conan Doyle or his representatives. Meanwhile other film makers to get around copyrights often changed character names while still comparing their characters to Sherlock Holmes in their plots and advertising.

1907 - “Un rivale di Sherlock Holmes” (Italy), or **“The Rival of Sherlock Holmes”** (U.S. release - 1908) Actor unknown. Società Anonima Ambrosio.

A film review of the movie stated, "Rival Sherlock Holmes" (Ambrosio) Length 584 feet - A pictorial detective story of merit, with many lightning changes of disguise by the detective in his pursuit of lawbreakers. Exciting scenes and physical encounters are numerous. A sensational subject of superb dramatic effect, without any objectionable features.”²

1908 - “Sherlock Hochmes, The King of Detectives” (Hungary) - Károly Baumann (1871-1920), originally Károly Grünberg) as Sherlock Holmes. Projectograph RT (Europe only).



Károly Baumann

“Sherlock Hochmes” was a parody comedy film considered to be similar to Michael Caine’s performance in "Without a Clue"(1988) The film caricatured the fact that Holmes knew everything. The real significance of the comedy was that Baumann, when performing the part on stage, spoke and sang Hungarian in an age when German was the official language.

You can learn more about Károly Baumann at the Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Society’s website:

<http://www.sherlockian-sherlock.com/karoly-baumann-hungarian-actor.php>

² "The Moving Picture World" magazine, Vol. 2 May 1908, Page 401

1908 - "Miss Sherlock Holmes" - Florence Turner (1885 - 1946) as Nell, Miss Sherlock Holmes

"Miss Sherlock Holmes" (Edison Mfg. Co.) Length 800 feet - Jack Rose & Jim Dalton are both employed in the same broker's office, are both in love with daughter. Nell favors Jack. Learning that Dalton is planning mischief, Nell disguises as a boy and gets employed in same office. Long story short, Dalton speculates loses and tries to frame Jack. Nell's Sherlock Holmes' detective work saves the day, Jack is exonerated, and Nell's Dad agrees she can marry Jack.



Florence Turner

An interesting detective story in which the little girl plays the part of Sherlock Holmes and succeeds in convincing her father that she ought to marry the man she loves, and she does it in a unique way. Perhaps the real criminal had a chance to figure out what he gained before he was released from the vault. The photography and filming are good and the film works smoothly."³

³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine July - Dec 1908 Page 484 - Comments on Film Subject

1908 - "The Abductors Foiled" or, "The Boy Detective" - Robert Harron (1893 - 1920) as Swifty, ?? or Swipesy.



Robert Harron

"The Abductors Foiled" - (Biograph) - "With 'The Boy Detective' Biograph starts a series of film stories which will be presented periodically, recounting the experiences of Swipesy, the newsboy, whose astute sagacity wins for him fame as a juvenile Sherlock Holmes. The first of the series issued this week, is "The Abductors Foiled," and tells of the thwarting of a plan to kidnap the daughter of a wealthy broker by a couple of pusillanimous scoundrels. The scheme is well planned, and would have been successfully carried out, but for the ubiquitous Swipesy. Swipesy and his chum, Swifty, the messenger boy, are indulging in a game of "craps." Luck is with Swipesy, who not only wins his chum's money but a dangerous looking revolver as well. While they are engaged in this Ethiopian pastime, the young lady approaches and enters a store. The two villains are following and await her coming out of the store, following her to her home. Swipesy is "hep" at once, and shadows them. They enter a saloon and immediately the messenger boy is called. As he comes out of the saloon he is accosted by Swipesy, who persuades him to let him see the mendacious message. "Hully gee! Just as I thought" says Swipesy; for the message read: "Dear Mary, Badly injured in auto accident. Come to hospital at once. Am sending a carriage for you. Ruth"; and he hotfoots it to the house of the young lady to warn her of the danger. You may be sure the girl was greatly alarmed, but Swipesy says, "Never fear, little one, we'll twist dem blokes' necks or I'll never sell another extra." He then tells the girl to telephone the police, while he dons a dress and hat of hers, gets in the carriage and is driven off. The carriage is stopped on a lonely road by the would-be abductors, when the masquerading Swipesy leaps out and holds the infamous wretches at bay until the arrival of the police, with his newly acquired revolver, which proves to be a cigarette case in the shape of a gun. Snapping it open, he hands around cigarettes to the amusement of the police and the chagrin of the ruffians."⁴

⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine, Vol. 2 Mar. 1908, Page 216

1908 - "The Mystery of the Bride in White" - Actors unknown. Kalem Film Co.



Sidney Olcott's The Mystery of the Bride in White

Directed by the iconic Sidney Olcott. "The film opens with a bride in white and her groom-to-be on the way to a church to be married. Following the marriage the joyous couple return home and celebrate with friends and neighbors of the groom, who is the landlord of the building they call home. During the celebration the bride in white faints into the arms of her groom upon recognizing her ex-husband, who had been presumed dead, is glaring at her. In another part of the manor house we see the ex-husband convincing the hesitant bride to meet with him. They cross an old stone bridge and the woman pleads with him to go away. He refuses and threateningly waves their marriage papers in her face. Upon being told he will not let her go, the desperate woman runs to the bridge and jumps off of it. The dead body is found by a laborer who makes Sherlock Holmes aware of it. Sherlock Holmes arrives at the manor house full of mourners and deduces that the ex-husbands tears are fake and determines he had something to do with it. He goes to the bridge and comes up with evidence of the ex-husbands involvement. Upon returning to the manor house with the evidence, the ex-husband realizes the great Sherlock Holmes has figured out his involvement, and flees with the groom and the real mourners in hot pursuit of him."⁵

⁵ http://www.sidneyolcott.com/Mystery_of_the_Bride_in_White1.htm

1908 - “A Fool For Luck”, or “Nearly A Policeman” - Actor Unknown. Edison Mfg. Co.

"A Fool For Luck" (Edison Mfg. Co.) Length 900 feet - Hiram Plowboy reads an alluring advertisement of Detective Correspondence School in "The Farmer's Friend", and takes a course, in a few days he receives his diploma, badge, handcuffs, & revolver.... in one scene titled 'Copies Sherlock Holmes' "Hi" returns to room with mysterious package wrapped in newspaper... Opens and dons an ulster and cap... Poses before a picture of Sherlock Holmes.”⁶

1908 - “Sherlock Holmes in the Great Murder Mystery” - Actors unknown. Crescent Film Mfg.

“The first screen appearance of Dr. Watson... Sherlock Holmes goes into a trance to pin a murder on an escaped gorilla after a woman’s suitor is blamed for the crime. Based on Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Murders in the Rue Morgue.”⁷

1908 - “Ein Meisterstück von Sherlock Holmes” (Germany) - Actors unknown. Internationale Kinematograph.

The year 1908 also witnessed the start of the first actual Sherlock Holmes film series by Nordisk Film Company of Denmark. This series would comprise 13 one or two reel films issued between 1908 and 1911. A most thorough resource work on this series of films is “The Great Northern Adventures of Sherlock Holmes” (Pinkerton, 1997) by Bjarne Nielsen.

Simply advertised as “Sherlock I” “Sherlock II” and “Sherlock III” in the U.S., the Great Northern series was highly popular as attested to by this ad’s comments.



Great Northern Film Co.

⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine July - Dec 1908, Page 324-325

⁷ Kelley, Gordon E., “Sherlock Holmes Screen and Sound Guide”, 1994 pg. 4

1908 - “Sherlock Holmes i Livsfare” (Denmark) or, “Sherlock Holmes in Danger of his Life” or, “Sherlock I” - Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.



Viggo Larsen

1908 - “Raffles Flugt fra Faengslet” (Denmark) or, “Raffles’Escape From Prison”, or “Sherlock II” - Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.



Viggo Larsen

1908 - “Det Hemmelige Dokument” (Denmark) or, “The Theft of The Secret Document”, or “The Detective’s Adventure in the Gas Cellar”, or “Sherlock III” - Einar Zangenberg as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.



Einar Zangenberg

Here are bits of interesting information from magazines about these three Great Northern films.

In the article “A Tour Amongst Country Exhibitors”, by John M. Bradlet, “Mr. Bradlet describes Wilmington, Del. during a bad snow storm. We past many theaters less than a quarter full, but when we arrived at The Pickwick, the largest theater it is standing room only, why, because Great Northern Film Co. "Sherlock Holmes" is playing... Pottstown, Pa., ‘Sherlock Holmes’ left a deep mark in this place, and it is reported that some families visited the ‘Gem’ the two days it was shown. The ‘Acme’ could not stand the sharp competition and had to close its door.”⁸

"Sherlock Holmes II" - "The exhibitors who did show "Sherlock Holmes I," will be pleased to know that the Great Northern Film Co. has added two new chapters to this remarkable film: "Sherlock Holmes II" is on the market and "Sherlock Holmes III," will be released in early March. "Sherlock Holmes I" showed us how Raffles stole the diamond necklace, how he was captured and sent to prison. "Sherlock Holmes II" shows us Raffles serving his time. How he manages to send word to his friends and how he manages to escape. Once free, Raffles first thought is to revenge himself on Sherlock Holmes, and for this he enlists the services of a pretty but depraved girl, to decoy the great detective to an old house, where he is met by Raffles under the disguise of an old

⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 4 Jan. - Jun. 1909 pgs. 143,148

women. Sherlock Holmes taken by surprise, is thrown through a masked opening in the wall, into an old sewer. When Raffles and his associates discover that Sherlock Holmes has been rescued, they plan a second attempt on his life. Raffles takes lodgings opposite the detective's home and watches for a good chance to fire his gun at Sherlock Holmes. Young Billy, the alert office boy, discovers the strange new tenant and notifies his master. Sherlock Holmes, guessing the intentions of the criminal, pulls down the window blinds and arranges a dummy at the window. At a given moment Billy pulls up the blinds and Raffles, who has been watching for a good opportunity, takes up his gun and shoots. He hits the dummy, but great is surprise when leaving the window, to find himself face to face with Sherlock Holmes in flesh. As Raffles turns to run away, he is caught by two officers."⁹

"Sherlock Holmes" - "A film in which the great imaginary detective is depicted with considerable fidelity. The action is not especially spirited and there are instances where the characters move like wooden puppets, but in the main the picture is good. Some of the photography is poor, which is due perhaps to circumstances which could not be controlled. The subject has interest, however, and will please every audience that sees it."¹⁰

"Sherlock Holmes II" - "The Great Northern people have brought out the second Sherlock Holmes film and it is quite a much thriller as the first. The audiences watch with the most intense interest as they see Raffles escape, and afterward see Holmes enticed to a lonely place and pushed back into a sewer. But he escapes and captures Raffles at the act of shooting at an image in Holmes' window, which Raffles takes as Holmes himself. The picture is good, technically, and the acting of the principal characters is up to standard, but the minor characters add little interest to the film. The clearness of the film and the success of Holmes compensates for any shortcuts in other directions. The film is good and deserves a long run."¹¹

"Evidently I was tempted to see the 'new \$102 place,' called the Gaiety. It was a real bargain as the stage and neatly framed screen must have cost a good deal more money. The lucky owner, who seems to believe in bargains, must have hired a 'bargain operator,' dispensing the films as quickly as the goods are sold on a bargain counter. He ran his machine at such a speed that the remarkable action of the great film 'Sherlock Holmes II,' was destroyed and the audience had no time to read the two short notes shown on the screen."¹²

⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 4 Jan. - Jun. 1909 pgs. 239/240

¹⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 4 Jan. - Jun. 1909 pg. 302

¹¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 4 Jan. - Jun. 1909 pgs. 268/269

¹² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 4 Jan. - Jun. 1909 pg. 345

"Sherlock Holmes" - We have had occasion to comment very favorably on the excellent staging and photography of the series of films issued by Great Northern Co. under the above heading. Taken with a connection with a comment in our issue of the 13th, in which a film bearing the same title was severely criticized, the remarks to some may appear to be contradictory. In justice to The Great Northern Company we wish to explain that the last mentioned film bore no maker's name, and as the several comments were made by the same critic they were equally fair. Some time ago another firm sent out a film under the title of "Sherlock Holmes," but evidently they did not have enough respect for their own work to stamp it with their imprint."¹³

The year 1909 witnessed the continuation of the first actual Sherlock Holmes film series by Nordisk Film Company of Denmark with three new films.

1909 - "Sangerindens Diamanter" (Denmark) or, **"The Theft of the Diamonds"** or, **"Sherlock IV"** - Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.



Viggo Larsen

1909 - "Droske Nr. 519" (Denmark) or, **"Cab No. 519"** or, **"The Legacy Robbery"** or, **"Sherlock V"** - Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.

1909 - "Den Gra Dame" or, **"Af Sherlock Holmes Oplevelser VI"** (Denmark) or, **"The Grey Dame"** or, **"The Grey Lady"** or, **"Sherlock Holmes's Memories"** or, **"Sherlock VI"** - Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.

¹³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 4 Jan. - Jun. 1909 pg. 367



Viggo Larsen



The Grey Lady

Here are bits of interesting information from old magazines about these three 1909 Great Northern films.

"The Theft of the Diamonds" - (Great Northern) "....As she enters the room she notices the confusion, and detecting him she grasps the telephone, and calls for Sherlock Holmes, the great detective, but before she can say anything he rushes from his hiding place and forces the telephone away from her. Sherlock Holmes, on the other end of the wire, hears only a scream, and immediately locating the number rushes to her home. Farley in the meantime has escaped to the roof and when Holmes arrives and see Miss Hayes unconscious, he notices the rope and quickly clambers up after the scoundrel. Farley from above, notices this and loosens the rope, but Holmes luckily saves himself by clinging to the balcony..... Farley from behind a chimney shoots at the approaching men and after his gun is empty runs..... he falls and is captured and bound....."¹⁴

"The Theft of the Diamonds" - (Great Northern) - "This firm has made an attractive feature of films of this type in the past, its Sherlock Holmes being graphic representatives of this fact. In this film some very dramatic situations are reproduced and the acting is so sympathetic and the actors develop so much capability in developing their parts that the audience becomes absorbed in the picture and regrets when it closes. ..."¹⁵

"Cab Number 519" - (Great Northern) - "From Sherlock Holmes' memoirs - Mr. B. is alone with his friend H. when he receives a letter which informs him his uncle is dead and has left him \$200,000. he is very happy over this good news and his friend seems to take part in his joy, but he quietly makes up his mind to take his friend's place and get hold of the money in due course. H. makes haste to secure an assistant, and old John Smith promises to get B. out of the way for a considerable share of the spoil. B. wants to get off the same evening but H. persuades him to buy a new portmanteau before leaving, and as

¹⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 532

¹⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 510

soon as B. has gone to a leather seller's shop, H. hurries to his assistants and begs them to act quickly. As B. comes out of the shop, a cab passes slowly by as if by accident. He calls to the driver, gets in, and leans back very joyfully, but immediately he feels a sweet smell and falls back unconscious. The cab stops in front of John Smith's house. B. is carried in and a moment later H. is in possession of the papers. When B. left the leather seller's shop he left his pocketbook on the counter by accident. This small circumstance is the cause of his life being saved. The leather seller finds the forgotten pocketbook takes it and runs out just in time to see B. drive away and notice the number of the cab 519. The next morning he takes the pocketbook to B's house and when he learns B has not yet come home he understands that a crime has been committed and goes at once to Sherlock Holmes. The only clue in the case is the number of the cab, but this is quite sufficient to the intelligent detective. In less than an hour the cab is found and Sherlock Holmes is on the box of the cab dressed as a driver. Thus the detective instead of the criminal cabman fetches B. and drives him to the steamer where the young man is taken senseless on board. The ship is now in open sea, as Smith, who has played the part of warden to a poor young gentleman who is insane, comes out from his cabin, carrying B., who is still senseless; but as the criminal is almost to throw the helpless young man overboard, he is seized by two strong men and thrown down on the deck. The sailors appear and carry Smith away to put him under lock and key, while Sherlock Holmes himself carries B. into his cabin. Now Sherlock Holmes has yet to unveil the false friend. He is caught and confronted with his assistants and victim just as he is at the solicitor's office, about to receive all the money. He tries to escape punishment by killing himself, but he is at the last moment prevented by Sherlock Holmes, and committed to prison.”¹⁶

"Cab Number 519" - A Strong Dramatic Story by Great Northern - "A well told detective story is always sure of success either in book form or as a play. We all love mystery; we all love plot; we all love to see how it is woven, and above all things, we all love to see mystery unraveled. Our appreciation of this kind of dramatic writing rises in proportion to the naturalness of the various incidents which make up the story. The famous Sherlock Holmes series of stories, that owe their origin to the brain of Sir A. Conan Doyle, are popular because Holmes, after all, is only a clever man of the world with highly developed reasoning powers. He is not a mere stage detective looking preternaturally wise and relying only upon time-worn expedients. No; he goes about his work in an ordinary matter-of-fact style, plus, of course, a little permissible exaggeration of acumen, and this is why the Sherlock Holmes stories are popular. In the film under review we are treated to a very melodramatic story, very skillfully worked out, which we think will be popular with all classes of audience. The picture is full of excitement from start to finish. A young man suddenly inherits a fortune. The man's friend decides to make himself master of that fortune, and so by the aid of an unscrupulous assistant he manages to kidnap his friend, to impersonate him, and to actually obtain the money. Now, to reach this point a bunch of startling adventures have to be gone through. The real owner of the fortune is lured

¹⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 4 Jan. - Jun. 1909 pg. 769

into a cab, and is drugged in that vehicle. He is taken on a ship and placed in a cabin in charge of one of the villains of the piece. But Holmes has been busy. Early on in the game he got the number of the cab and traced it in its wanderings to the house which the unconscious victim was temporarily placed. Holmes runs the cabman to earth, binds his arms and renders him helpless. Then he starts in pursuit of the ship. He gets on board. He takes the cabin next to that in which the drugged victim lies, and just at the moment that the latter is to be thrown overboard by the man whose power he is Holmes appears, effects a rescue and knocks the villain down. The final scene of the play shows the impersonator taking possession of the money, when, just as he is handling it, the real owner appears. The impersonator, after denials and struggles, is arrested, and all ends happily, thanks to the skills of Sherlock Holmes. The story is handled clearly and explicitly throughout. It is told against a number of well chosen scenes and the excitement raises to its greatest height on the deck of the steamer, where the body of the unconscious victim is to be thrown overboard. The drugging in the cab is also an exciting moment. Indeed the play is dramatic throughout. The photographs are well executed and the acting all that is required in a piece of this kind. Melodrama such as "Cab Number 519" does not call for much subtlety of dramatic interpretation; plain, decisive and incisive. That is what we get in this story. The film is of the best of its kind. Holmes works on very slender materials; he also works rationally and naturally. There is no straining after effect, and so the impression on the minds of the audience is a logical series of incidents leading up to the conventional defeat of villainy and the triumph of virtue. And when a story worked out on these lines holds the interest of its audience from end to end, then be sure it will receive the stamp of popular approval."¹⁷

"The Gray Dame" - (Great Northern) - "In taking up the strong vein of detective romances with which the name of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is associated with, the Great Northern Film Company show considerable shrewdness, for the doings of Sherlock Holmes and his miraculous success in unraveling apparently insoluble mysteries appear to have struck the imagination of the world, and especially the juveniles, for all time. Mention Sherlock Holmes and the mind instantly conjures up murder, mystery, confusion and finally happiness, due to the master mind of Baker street, London. We know Baker street, London. It is the home of many modern curiosities of intellect and Doyle wisely choose it as the home of his star detective. But to the splendid story illustrated in the latest Great Northern film: There is a legend in a noble English family, that when the Gray Dame, a respectable family ghost appears, then the eldest son of the house dies. This paves the way for an ingenious plot on the part of a visitor, who sees, it is to be supposed, early possession of the title and estate by the removal of father and son. Well, the Gray Dame appears, the lady of course being the conspirator dressed up for the occasion. In this manor the death of the old lord is assured. Then the son is similarly attacked by this Gray Dame, who has discovered secret doors in the castle. In this dilemma, Sherlock Holmes is sent for, and he also discovers the secret doors. But in doing so he discovers too

¹⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 4 Jan. - Jun. 1909 pg. 755

much, for the Gray Dame outwits Mr. Holmes, and at a very critical moment precipitates the detective into a subterranean dungeon, where presumably he is to rot to death. The resourceful Holmes, however, gets busy on the walls, discovers a secret door which opens, and so regains entrance to the castle. Disguising himself as the son of the house he awaits the next appearance of the Gray Dame, who is considerably surprised when paying her visit, to be attacked, held and unmasked by Holmes and the servants. The culprit is presumably marched off to prison and happiness is restored to the castle. The story is full of exciting movements, and the plot is worked out with decision and sureness of attack. There is not a lingering moment in the story, which moves rapidly, tensely and convincingly, as all detective stories should. Above all it is exceedingly well acted and then it has been very nicely set and mounted. The furniture of the castle, the uniforms, the carriages and the horses, everything, in fact, are provided to give the romance an aspect of verisimilitude. Yet again, as we watched this picture, which is a very fine piece of photographic work, we found our unemotional selves being carried away by the excitement of the story. And later when we told a small boy of nine what we had seen, he clapped his hands and said, "Oh, I wish I could see that picture." We have no doubt a similar reception awaits this latest great Northern success at the hands of the public."¹⁸

1909 - "The Latest Triumph of Sherlock Holmes" (France)- Actors unknown. Gaumont.

"The film treated Holmes' *idiosyncrasies* with a light and satiric touch, depicting him crawling about on the floor with a magnifying glass and tape measure in search of clues. Holmes finally traces the thief in question by means of a discarded cigarette butt."¹⁹

1909 - "Detective Barock Holmes and His Hound" (France)- Actors unknown. Gaumont.

1909 - "Il piccolo Sherlock Holmes"(Italy) or, **"A Little Sherlock Holmes"**- Actors unknown. Itala Films.

1909 - "Amateur Detektiv ala Nacheiferer Sherlock Holmes" (Germany) or, **"Amateur Detective Emulating Sherlock Holmes"**- Actors unknown. k. Ang. Films?

¹⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 5 Jul. - Dec. 1909 pg. 344

¹⁹ Pohle & Hart, "Sherlock Holmes on Screen", 1977 pg. 46

1909 - "A Squeedunk Sherlock Holmes" - Actors unknown. Edison Mfg. Co.



A Squeedunk Sherlock Holmes

Edison Films Ad - Released July 9, 1909 - "A Squeedunk Sherlock Holmes" - "A laughable film, showing how a country constable, with the instincts of a true Sherlock Holmes, followed up an imaginary crime. A realistic travesty on the ambitions of the typical country constable."²⁰ Length approx. 500 ft.

"A Squeedunk Sherlock Holmes" - "The Edison people have given a good burlesque of the average detective story in a film which has the photographic quality of their recent work. It is unquestionably a good a comedy as they have turned out in a long time, and

²⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 5 Jul. - Dec. 1909 pg.60

the audience shows its appreciation in hearty laughter. The acting is quite in keeping with the subject and it is as smooth and even as the Edison actors usually are. As a welcome break from the far too frequent monotony of gloom and death this film is a decided success. It deserves a long run."²¹

The year 1909 also saw the beginning of the Sheerluck Finch series of comedies parodying Sherlock Holmes. Sheerluck Finch was forever tracking down Three Fingered Kate.²²

1909 - "The Exploits Of Three Fingered Kate" - Charles Calvert as Sheerluck Finch. Cosmos Pictures (U.K.).

1909 - "Three Fingered Kate, Her Second Victim" - Charles Calvert as Sheerluck Finch. Cosmos Pictures (U.K.).

1909 - (either) "Gribouille, roi des policiers" (or,) Boireau protecteur de la police (1912) (In Russia as) **Homebrew Sherlock Holmes (1914)** - André Deed as Foolshead. Itala studios.

André Deed (Henri André Chapais), was a French-born actor and director, best known for his Foolshead comedies, produced in the 1900s and 1910s, for the Itala studios in Italy. Surely, as confirmed by the Russian release of this film having Sherlock Holmes in the title, parodies of Sherlock Holmes were included in the Deed's Foolshead comedies.



André Deed

²¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 5 Jul. - Dec. 1909 pg.89

²² Kelley, Gordon E., "Sherlock Holmes Screen and Sound Guide", 1994 pg. 4

The year 1910 witnessed the further continuation of the first actual Sherlock Holmes film series by Nordisk Film Company of Denmark with four new films.

1910 - “Den Forklaedte Guvernante” or, “Den orklaedte Barnepige” (Denmark) or, **“The Bogus Governess”** - Otto Lagoni as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.

1910 - “Sherlock Holmes i Bondefangerkloer” or, “Den Stjaalne Tegnbug” (Denmark) or, **“A Confidence Trick”** - Otto Lagoni as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.



Otto Lagoni

1910 - “Den Sorte Haand” or, “Mordet i Baker Street” (Denmark) or, **“The Black Hand”** or, **“The Blackmailers”**- Otto Lagoni as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.

1910 - “Milliontestamentet” or, “Millionbligationen” or, “Den Stajlne Millionbligationen” (Denmark) or, **“The Stolen Legagcy”** or, **“The Million Dollar Bond”**- Alwin Nuess as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.



Alwin Nuess

Here are bits of interesting information from old magazines about these four 1910 Great Northern films.

"The Stolen Legacy" (Northern) - "In this Sherlock Holmes Story, which has much merit and interest, a will is stolen and through a series of exciting incidents Sherlock Holmes captures the thieves and secures the legacy for the countess. ..." ²³

"The Bogus Governess" (Northern) June 3, 1911 "One of the Best Sherlock Holmes Detective Films Ever Produced" ²⁴

"The Bogus Governess"- (Northern) - "This is a Sherlock Holmes story which holds the interest throughout." ²⁵

The year 1910 also saw the continuance of the Sheerluck Finch series of comedies parodying Sherlock Holmes. Sheerluck Finch was still tracking down Three Fingered Kate.

1910 - "Three Fingered Kate, Her Victim The Banker" - Charles Calvert as Sheerluck Finch. Cosmos Pictures (U.K.).

1910 - "The Episode of the Sacred Elephants" - Charles Calvert as Sheerluck Finch. Cosmos Pictures (U.K.).

Also 1910 saw the start of a new series of films, featuring **"Arsene Lupin vs. Sherlock Holmes"**, from Vitascope Pictures (Germany) with a familiar face returning as Holmes, Viggo Larsen.

1910 - "Der alte Sekretar" or, "The Old Secretaire" - Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

²³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 8 Jan. - July 1911 pg. 1020

²⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 8 Jan. - July 1911 pg. 1227

²⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 8 Jan. - July 1911 pg. 1389

1910 - “Der blaue Diamant” or, “The Blue Diamond”- Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).



Viggo Larsen

1910 - “Die flaschen Rembrandts” or, “The Fake Rembrandts”- Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

1910 - “Die Flucht” or, “Arsene Lupin’s Escape”- Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

Numerous films relied on simply using the name Sherlock Holmes in their ads, or the descriptions of their main characters.

1910 - "The Girl and the Judge" or, “A Terrible Temptation” - William Humphrey as the Judge and Maurice Costello as the young lover. Vitagraph Film Co. (Maurice Costello was not Holmes here either!)

Vitagraphs Film Ad - "... How a Southern Judge solved a great murder mystery and was tempted to conceal his discovery. A study in deduction more convincing than Sherlock Holmes."²⁶

1910 - “Trapped By His Own Mark”, Actors unknown. Capitol Films Co.

Capitol Films Ad - "Trapped By His Own Mark" - (Capitol) 1910 - Length 900 feet - "A true detective story of early days in the West. Arsene Lupin and Sherlock Holmes outdone. A baffling mystery solved."

²⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 116

1910 - "The Livingston Case" - Herbert Bostwick as the detective. Edison Mfg. Co.

Edison Films Ad - "The Livingston Case" - "A detective story, much on the order of the famous 'Sherlock Holmes' is depicted on this film."²⁷



Clifton Woolridge

Comments on the Films - "The Livingston Case" - "A detective story much on the order of the famous 'Sherlock Holmes' tales. By a process of deduction a detective follows out a series of clues by which he obtains a confession from a suspect. ..." ²⁸

The name Clifton Woolridge means little to people today, but to Chicagoans and Chicago criminals, he was notorious. Woolridge, a former police officer was described at the time as "the incorruptible Sherlock Holmes of America," and he was on a mission to save Chicago from itself. Read about Clifton Woolridge at:

<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/feature/chicago-detective/>

Here is an example of Great Northern using the Holmes name, which they've had so much success with, on a film that surely has nothing to do with Holmes

1910 - "Tsing Fu, The Yellow Devil" - Actors unknown . Great Northern Films

Comments on the films - "Tsing, The Yellow Devil" - (Great Northern) - "A thrilling and convincing detective story worked out with all the care and attention which characterize the great Northern films. The same quality of acting and the same effort to make the acting sympathetic is shown here that were such prominent factors in the success of the Sherlock Holmes series. ..." ²⁹

²⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 224

²⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 258

²⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 599

1910 - "Hemlock Hoax, The Detective" - Actors unknown. Lubin Pictures

"Hemlock Hoax, The Detective" - (Essanay) 1910 - Hemlock Hoax thinks he can "put it all over" Sherlock Holmes, and his sleuthing is somewhat of a joke in the little tropical town where he lives. Two boys plan some fun at his expense and bring him the news of a terrible murder. Holmes is led to the scene of the crime and with measuring tape and magnifying glass proceeds to search for clues and material for deductions in the most approved detective fashion. He discovers a shred of cloth on a projecting branch and declares the murderer to be as good as found. Like the human hound that he is, he starts hot upon the scent and finds a tramp wearing the garment from which the cloth was torn. The surprised tramp develops a burst of speed that is astonishing and Hoax makes a good second. Others aid the pursuit and they are led on a merry cross country chase that ends in the capture of the tramp by Hoax and a policeman they have picked up. The trembling tramp is led back to the scene of his atrocious crime and confronted with the body of the victim. Then, for the first time, Hoax discovers that the body is merely a dummy stuffed with leaves, and the poor boys are properly punished, though not until the crowd has enjoyed a good laugh at the expense of the crestfallen Hoax.³⁰

1910 - "A Twenty-Nine Cent Robbery", Marie Eline (1902 - 1981) as Edna Robinson, a juvenile Sherlock Holmes. Thanhouser Film Co.



Marie Eline

Thanhouser Notes column - "Tiny Marie Eline, who made a hit as the juvenile Sherlock Holmes in "A 29-Cent Robbery" (1910)...."³¹

³⁰ ³⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 613

³¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 6 Jan. - June 1910 pg. 644

1910 - “The Thief”, or “The Hollow Cane” - Brinsley Shaw as Detective Bramwell (Sherlock Holmes). Essanay Films.



Brinsley Shaw

Article - “Essanay Puts Over a Sherlock Holmes - "The Hollow Cane" with Brinsley Shaw as Detective Bramwell (Article w/photos).³²"The Hollow Cane" is now called "The Thief", and described as Arsene Lupin (thief) vs. Sherlock Holmes (Bramwell).³³

1910 - “The Monogrammed Cigarette”, Elsie Albert (1888 - 1981) as Nell Pierce "The Yankee Girl Detective". Yankee Film Co.



Elsie Albert

³² "The Film Index" magazine July 2, 1910 (Vol. XI. #1. pages 2-4).

³³ "The Film Index" magazine July 9, 1910 (Vol. XI. #2. page 22)

Independent Film Stories column - "The Monogrammed Cigarette" - (Yankee) 1910 - "The cigarette has been credited with being the cause of a great many crimes.Nat Pierce, a Sherlock Holmes type of crime investigator, was retained by Sloan to ferret out the theft, there being important reasons why Sloan did not desire publicity, and therefore kept the loss of the jewels from the police." Long story - short - Nat Pierce ends up getting killed, his daughter, Nell Pierce, "The Yankee Girl Detective", with only a cigarette but and only half-obliterated monogram, and the use of disguises, avenges her father's death and solves the Waldo jewel theft case."³⁴

1910 - "The Cat Came Back", Elsie Albert (1888 - 1981) as Nell Pierce "The Yankee Girl Detective". Yankee Film Co.

"The Cat Came Back" - (Atlas) - Nell Pierce the girl detective once again solves a case of a missing jeweled bracelet, by saving a cat tossed in a bag in a pond by a tramp, and the cat had the bracelet around its neck. "Nell was a sharp shrewd and well read young miss and had a literary acquaintance with every detective from Nick Carter to Sherlock Holmes."³⁵

1910 - "The Italian Sherlock Holmes", Actors unknown. Yankee Film Co.

Yankee Film Co. Ad - "The Italian Sherlock Holmes" (Yankee) 1910 - Large letters - Petrosini, The Detective -smaller letters - was undoubtedly one of the bravest sleuths ever detailed on an important case by the New York Secret Service Bureau. His exploits and adventures were known worldwide over. We've produced a wonderful film, whose story deals with the unravelling of a mystery in high society by an unusually clever Italian Sleuth who is noted for his many disguises and impersonations.³⁶

Independent Film Stories column - "The Italian Sherlock Holmes" - (Yankee) - A fake Italian Nobleman, a fake Countess, a missing pearl necklace - here we go again. Petrosio the famous Italian sleuth is assigned to the case. Chases, disguises, and finally the sleuth captures the criminals, and of course wants no reward.³⁷

"The Italian Sherlock Holmes" (Yankee) - ".... Here is a valuable necklace stolen and the detective runs down the thief because he has a bit of dust on his arm."³⁸

³⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 7 July - Dec. 1910 pg. 832

³⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 7 July - Dec. 1910 pg. 893

³⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 7 July - Dec. 1910 pg. 975

³⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 7 July - Dec. 1910 pg. 1014

³⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 7 July - Dec. 1910 pg. 1119

1910 - "The Case of the Missing Heir", Elsie Albert (1888 - 1981) as Nell Pierce "The Yankee Girl Detective". Yankee Film Co.

Yankee Film Co. Ad - "The Case of the Missing Heir" - (Yankee) - Nov. 14, 1910 - "Tells a story more hair-raising than the exploits of Sherlock Holmes, a plot more intently interesting than Arsine Lupin's most daring achievement."³⁹ Another Nell Pierce "The Yankee Girl Detective" story.

1910 - "The Barnstormer in the Photoplay", by Louis Reeves Harrison

"The Barnstormer in the Photoplay" - A very long plot summery which once again involves, saving the girl, capturing the gang and retuning the jewels. The key feature in this film is that there are two detectives - Sherlock Carter & Nick Holmes.⁴⁰ Article author gives no other title for film?

1910 - "Diamantbedrageren", or "The Diamond Swindler". Franz Skondrup (1874 - 1941) as Harry Taxon?. Great Northern Film Co.



Franz Skondrup

"The Diamond Swindler" - (Great Northern) Nov. 19, 1910 - "It is adapted from the adventures of Harry Taxon, a clever pupil of the celebrated Sherlock Holmes"

"The Diamond Swindler" - (Great Northern) - Long plot summary in which again, with the help of disguises, Sherlock Holmes saves the stolen jewelry, and returns it to the girl, wishing no reward. No mention of Harry Taxon as in the ads - just Holmes. What ever happened to Harry Taxon, lol?

"The Diamond Swindler" - (Great Northern) - These comments now say "Harry Traxton", a clever pupil of Sherlock Holmes. Will the real Sherlock Holmes (Slim Shady) please stand-up.

³⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 7 July - Dec. 1910 pg. 1091

⁴⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 7 July - Dec. 1910 pg. 1103

The year 1911 witnessed the final two films of the first actual Sherlock Holmes film series by Nordisk Film Company of Denmark.

1911 - “Hotelrotterne” or, “Hotelmysterierne” or, “Sherlock Holmes’ Sidste Bedrifter” (Denmark) or, **“Hotel Thieves”**, - Einar Zangenberg as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.



Einar Zangenberg

1911 - “Den Sorte Hoette” (Denmark) or, **“The Black Hood”** or, **“The Conspirators”**- Lauritz Olsen as Sherlock Holmes. Nordisk Film Co.



Lauritz Olsen

Here are bits of interesting information from old magazines about these final two 1911 Great Northern films.

Comments on the films column - "Hotel Thieves" - (Great Northern) - "This film affords sufficient excitement for once. Thieves are seen at work. Sherlock Holmes is engaged to run down the criminals, and the adventures that befall him are much more numerous and

serious than is usually the case with this detective. But even though hurled from a train and subjected to much other unkind, not to say severe, treatment he succeeds in rolling the arch criminal over a precipice in Switzerland, half a world away."⁴¹

Comments on the films column - "The Conspirators" - (Great Northern) - Sept. 16 - "Mr. Wilson, a solicitor, receives a wire from a client who is a confirmed invalid, asking him to call upon him and arrange for the disposal of stocks and shares. When the wire arrives, Mrs. Wilson is at the office. Bidding adieu to her, her husband accompanies her to the street. His clerk, who is a noted member of a band of scoundrels, during his absence reads the telegram and hastily prepares a message to the gang, apprising them that there is a good haul to be made. His first epistle does not suit him, and he crumples this up and throws it on the floor. This ultimately brings about his undoing. The clerk leaves the office and joins his confederates, and soon plans are matured. As Mr. Wilson is hailing a cab preparatory to calling on his client, the gang overpower him and confine him in a dungeon at old mother S's. Armed with his employer's bag, the clerk then proceeds to call on the client. At the solicitor's office, however, a trusted servant has picked up the incriminating note which says that Wilson must be robbed. He informs Mrs. Wilson, and then Sherlock Holmes is called in. He speedily determines on a course of action, and going to the client, takes that gentleman's place, and is disguised to represent the infirm old man. When the clerk calls, Sherlock Holmes overpowers him, and makes him a prisoner. He then disguises as the clerk, and goes to the place where Wilson is detained, and liberates him. The other members of the gang rush in, but are covered by the detective's pistol. Suddenly one of them pulls a cord by the window and Sherlock Holmes disappears into the space below. But the police arrive and overpower the ruffians. They are forced to disclose Holmes whereabouts, and eventually the robbers are consigned to duress vile, and Wilson is restored to his family."⁴²

Comments on the Films column - "The Conspirators" - (Great Northern) - Sept. 16 - "A Sherlock Holmes detective story which has a number of thrilling situations. Perhaps the most interesting is where the robbers pull a string and drop the detective into someplace unknown. However he is speedily rescued, by the police, the gang is captured and the unfortunate lawyer is returned to his family unhurt. And all this came about through the arch conspirator neglecting to throw away a telegram he had written to send to his confederates. The assumption of a number of different disguises by the detective is a clever bit of work and adds greatly to the film."⁴³

⁴¹ Source: "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 8 Jan. - July 1911 pg. 1521

⁴² Source: "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 9 July - Sep. 1911 pgs. 830, 1000

⁴³ Source: "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 9 July - Sep. 1911 pg. 976

1911 - **"The Counting House Mystery"** - Elsie Albert (1888 - 1981) as Nell Pierce, "The Yankee Girl Detective". Yankee Film Co.

"The Counting House Mystery" (Yankee) - 'Yes the money disappeared while every member of the counting room was present. ... Nell Pierce did not accept the popular verdict, however, but unerringly hit upon a solution of the problem, which proved her wonderful power of deduction.Nell "The Yankee Girl Detective" finally brought her man to bay, and saved an innocent boy from prison...."⁴⁴

Also 1911 saw the conclusion of a series of films, featuring **"Arsene Lupin vs. Sherlock Holmes"**, from Vitascope Pictures (Germany) with the familiar face of Viggo Larsen.

1911 - **"Arsene Lupin's Ende"** or, **"The Finish of Arsene Lupin"** - Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

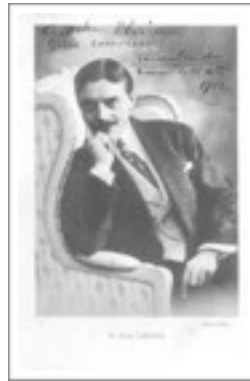


Viggo Larsen

1911 - **"Sherlock Holmes contra Professor Moryarty"** or, **"Der Erbe von Bloomrod"**, or **"Sherlock Holmes vs. Professor Moriarty"** or, **"The Heir of Bloomrod"** - Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

⁴⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 8 Jan. - July 1911 pg. 210

1911 - "Who Killed Max?" or, **"Quel est l'assassin?"**, or **Wer ist der Täter?** - Charles Mosnier as Professor Searchem, the prize pupil of Sherlock Holmes. Pathe Film .



Charles Mosnier

"Who Killed Max?" - (Pathe) - 689 feet - "Max has been off on a terrible toot and when he gets home, he proceeds to break up housekeeping in a most efficacious manner. Retiring to his own room he shoots the heads off a bust of Psyche and breaks up things generally. Finally, going to sleep in the midst of chaos he presents the appearance of having been murdered. His parents rush in and find him thus and grief stricken send for the police. Professor Searchem, the prize pupil of Sherlock Holmes, gets on the job, and by a series of extremely deductions, captures the assassin and takes him to his office and summons the victim's parents to see this awful criminal. What the detective's sensations are when the parents discover that the man whom he has arrested is their own beloved son, whom they thought dead, and whom in the meantime had come back to life and started on a new round of pleasure is difficult to describe."⁴⁵

1911 - "A Jar of Cranberry Sauce" or, **"The Crime in Room 13"** - Actors unknown. Edison Mfg. Co.

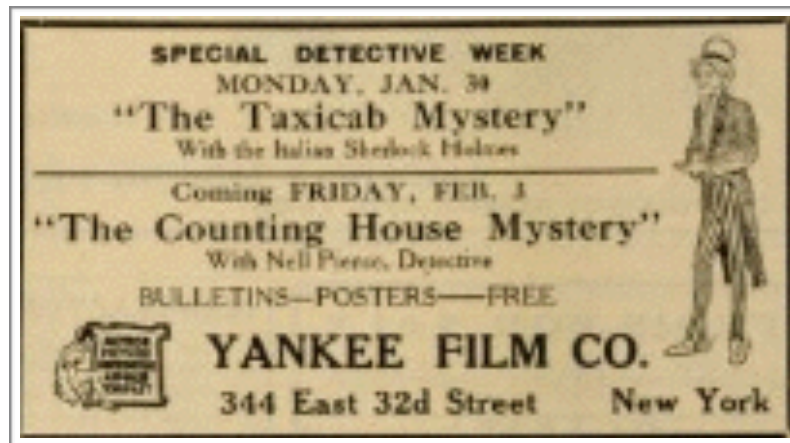
Recent Films Reviewed - "A Jar of Cranberry Sauce" - (Edison) - Here we see an amateur Sherlock Holmes run amuck most amusingly. The comedy is well managed, and arouses much hearty laughter.⁴⁶

Ray Wilcockson says, "My prize for best title – A Jar of Cranberry Sauce – rivals the parsley in the butter!"

⁴⁵ "The Nickelodeon" Page 229 - Feb. 5, 1911

⁴⁶ "The Nickelodeon" Page 200 - Oct. 1, 1910

1911 - **"The Taxi Cab Mystery"** - The part of Petrosio, detective, is played by Mr. Krohner, 'The Italian Sherlock Holmes'. Yankee Film Co.



Mr. Krohner

Independent Film Stories Column - "The Taxi Cab Mystery" (Yankee) - "... He is aided by a pretty stenographer who, in one scene, climbs to the transom and breaks the glass with her slipper to allow the deadly fumes of gas to escape. The chase through New York's busy streets is both novel and thrilling,The part of Petrosio, detective, is played by Mr. Krohner, who is familiar to our friends as 'The Italian Sherlock Holmes'. ..." ⁴⁷

1911 - **"Foiling the Camorra"** - The part of Petrosio, detective, is played by Mr. Krohner, 'The Italian Sherlock Holmes'. Yankee Film Co.

Independent Film Stories Column - "Foiling the Camorra" - (Yankee) - "It remained for the fearless "Italian Sherlock Holmes" to run down the boldest and most merciless band of kidnappers ever recorded in the annals of the Black Hand. Headed by a Sicilian Camorrist who had escaped from Italy, and become a small banker in New York ... a young Italian police lieutenant, Victor Petrosio, begged for a chance to break up the gang Not only do we show "The Italian Sherlock Holmes" fighting against terrible odds. ..." ⁴⁸

⁴⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 8 Jan. - July 1911 pg. 206

⁴⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 8 Jan. - July 1911 pg. 268

1911 - **"The Stolen Necklace"** - Actors unknown. Nestor Film Co.



The Stolen Necklace

"The Stolen Necklace" (Nestor) April 5, 1911 - "Sherlock Holmes' Theory Exploded" in 875 feet - also a photo of scene from "The Stolen Necklace".⁴⁹

1911 - **"A Matrimonial Affair"** - Sam D. Drane as Mutt and Gus Alexander as Jeff. Nestor Film Co.

Independent Film Stories column - "A Matrimonial Affair" - (Nestor) - A Mutt and Jeff movie - the description has this one line - "...In fact, the moment that Mutt departs to mail his billet doux, the little fellow starts an investigation a la Sherlock Holmes. ..." ⁵⁰

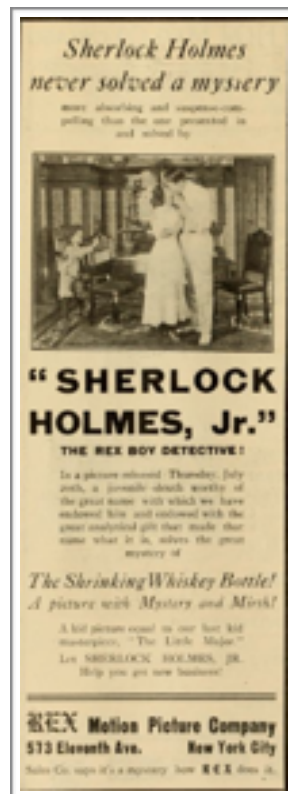
1911 - **"Sherlock Holmes, Jr."** - Helen Anderson, a wonderful child actress plays Sherlock Holmes, Jr. Rex Motion Picture Company.

Independent Film Stories column - "Sherlock Holmes, Jr." - (Rex) - "Little Sherlock Holmes, Jr., reads the doughty doings of his hero-god, and at once determines to become a detective himself. Providence at once favors him by giving him a mystery to solve. His

⁴⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 8 Jan. - July 1911 pg. 774-775

⁵⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 9 July - Sep. 1911 pg. 64

father has noticed that in some weird, unaccountable fashion the whiskey in the decanter is ever vanishing, and father swears he drink it as fast as all that. So Sherlock Holmes, Jr. assigns himself the task of discovering who tampers with his father's soothing beverage. Concealed behind a table, he sees Bridget, the cook, come in and at once proceed to get



Helen Anderson

on the outside of a man's size pull on the flask. At once the embryo detective makes his report to his father, with the astounding solution of the mystery. The father decides to use Dr. Brown's Sure Cure for the Liquor Habit on the cook, and obtains a bottle of the fluid. This he puts in the room near the whiskey, intending to pour some in the bottle a little later. Sherlock Holmes, Jr., discovers the bottle and follows the 'Do it Now' maxim. There are friends visiting the house at the time, who are sitting on the lawn with his parents, awaiting tea, which the maid is going to bring them. Sherlock Holmes, Jr. pours a goodly amount of the fluid into the tea. One of the results of taking the liquid is falling into a deep slumber, and in a few moments the host, the hostess, and the guests are fast asleep. Then happen's along Bridget's beau, the policeman, for whose particular benefit Bridget essays to go inside and procure a glass of 'buttermilk.' After imbibing, the policeman forgets all about everything except that he is awful drowsy, and the next thing, he, too, is asleep. It must have been contagious - or could Bridget not have forgotten herself? - but at any rate, she, too, wanders off into the Land of Nod. Then Sherlock dons the policeman's clothes and club, and marches through the house, monarch of all he surveys.

At this opportune moment, two burglars arrive at the scene, and seeking the sleepers, think they have been transferred to Burglar's Paradise. They sneak upstairs, fill their bags with silverware and then fall for the whiskey on the table, little Sherlock watching eagerly. At last they get themselves off, followed by the creator of all the mischief, but they have not gone far when they are overcome by the liquor cure and fall in their tracks to sleep. Little Sherlock now takes the manacles from the policeman's coat pocket, and ties both legs of the burglars together. In due time the household awakes, they seek the boy, and eventually find him covering the two burglars, prisoners of Sherlock Holmes, Jr."⁵¹

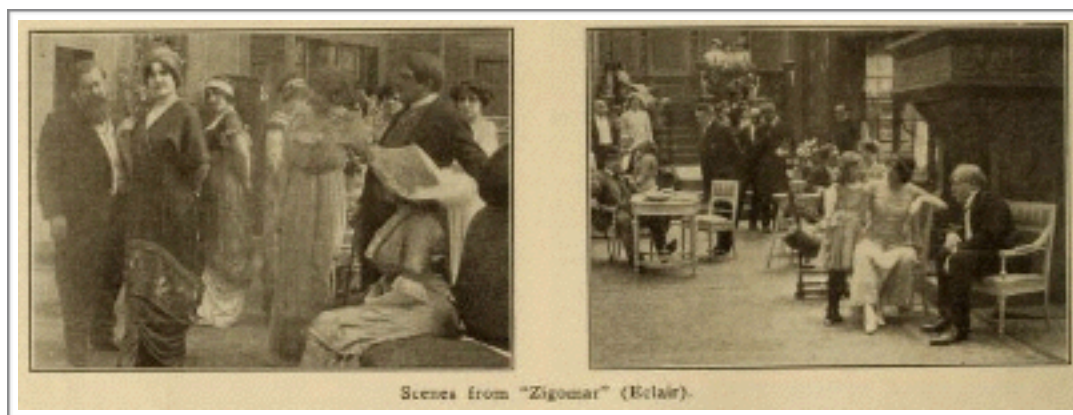
1911 - "Jimmie as a Footman" - Flora Finch possibly female Sherlock Holmes, Jr. Gaumont Motion Picture Company.

Reviews of Notable Films - "Jimmie as a Footman" - (Gaumont) - Long review includes these lines "... The servants are unaware that the new maid is the women detective in disguise. From the outset the female Sherlock Holmes suspects Jimmie. ..." ⁵²

1911 - "Tiny Tom, Detective" - Actors unknown. Ambrosio Film Co.

"Tiny Tom, Detective" - (Ambrosio) - Sept. 20 - "A bright comedy with the favorite Tiny Tom in the role of a successful follower of Sherlock Holmes. He traces the burglar by a necktie and succeeds in restoring to its owner the stolen money, while the burglars are apparently hurried away to prison."⁵³

1911 - "Zigomar" - Paulin Broquet as Sherlock Holmes. Eclair Film Co.



Zigomar

⁵¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 9 July - Sep. 1911 pg. 148

⁵² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 9 July - Sep. 1911 pg. 609/610

⁵³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 9 July - Sep. 1911 pg. 976

"Zigomar" - (Eclair) - (Three reels) - "For some months past a most sensational and fascinating story, published in serial installments in a leading Parisian journal, had aroused the interest and curiosity, not alone of Paris, but of France. The story came from the pen of Leon Sazie, who has on occasions, show flashes of the wit and power of Hugo and Maupassant. Readers of English fiction had little difficulty to detect, even under the distinct French garb of 'Zigomar,' their old friends Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty. Let it not be inferred, however, that the French version of the Conan Doyle idea yields one jot to the English prototype either in rapidity of action or fertility of invention. The characters of Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty are taken respectfully by Paulin Broquet and Zigomar. It would transcend the limits allowed for this review, were we to attempt even a condensed description of the numerous plots and counterplots, which develop out of a battle of wits between Broquet and Zigomar. The scenes in the Alps, where Zigomar has gone to rob hotels, are taken in nature in a country where nature is most charming, wonderful and impressive. The ascent of the mountain by the disguised robber and a distinguished company, of which Broquet, also in disguise, forms a part, is rich in realistic incident. Zigomar falls down the side of a glacier for a distance which seems alarmingly long to the spectator."⁵⁴

The year 1911 would also see the start of a new series of Sherlock Holmes parody-comedies featuring the legendary Mack Sennett (1880 - 1960) and Fred Mace (1878 -1917) as the "Biograph Sleuths" (or later with Keystone Studios as "The Two Sleuths"). The films featured both men in full Sherlockian garb.



Mack Sennett and Fred Mace

1911 - "The \$500 Reward" - Mack Sennett and Fred Mace. Biograph Pictures.

⁵⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 10 Oct. - Dec. 1911 pg 108

1911 - “Trailing The Counterfeiter” - Mack Sennett and Fred Mace. Biograph Pictures.

1911 - “Their First Divorce Case” - Mack Sennett and Fred Mace. Biograph Pictures.

1911 - “Caught With The Goods” - Mack Sennett and Fred Mace. Biograph Pictures.

A number of other Sherlock Holmes parodies which popped-up in 1911 include the following.

1911 - “A Desperate Lover” - Directed by and starring Mack Sennett. Biograph Pictures.

1911 - “Bobby Turns Detective” (France) or, **“Fritzchen Als Sherlock Holmes”** (Ger.)- Fritz Abelard as Sherlock Holmes. Gaumont Pictures.

1911 - “A Neat Trick” - Actors unknown. Eclipse Films (France).

1911 - “Little Sherlock Holmes” - Actors unknown. Eclair Films (France).

1911 - “A Case for Sherlock Holmes” - Actors unknown. Cricks and Martin (U.K.).

And to finish-up the year 1911 we have a few more films from France and Germany.

1911 - “Sherlock Holmes Cheated by Rigadin” - Actors unknown. Eclair Films (France).

1911 - “The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes” or, **“Les Aventures de Sherlock Holmes”** - Henri Gouget as Sherlock Holmes. Eclair Films (France).

1911 - “Ein Fall für Sherlock Holmes” - (A Case for Sherlock Holmes) Actors unknown. (Germany).

1911 - “Tom, Sherlock Holmes gelehriger Schüler” - (Tom, Sherlock Holmes’ Apt Pupil) Actors unknown. Produktionsfirma: Müller, Henri Adolph (Germany).

The year 1912 would see the formation of the Franco-British Film Co., for the Paris Éclair Company’s feature production of Sherlock Holmes stories filmed in Great Britain. “The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes”, in a series of eight subjects, produced at a cost of

\$20,000 under the personal supervision of the author, Sir Conan Doyle, this series attempted to faithfully follow the original stories. It starred French actor Georges Tréville (1875 - 1944) as Sherlock Holmes, and gave us the second appearance of Dr. Watson in films, played by a Monsieur Moyse. I've been unable to find any information about the mysterious M. Moyse.



The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

1912 - “The Speckled Band” - Georges Tréville as Sherlock Holmes, Monsieur Moyse as Dr. Watson. Franco- British Film Co.

1912 - “Silver Blaze” - Georges Tréville as Sherlock Holmes, Monsieur Moyse as Dr. Watson. Franco- British Film Co.



Georges Tréville

1912 - **“The Beryl Coronet”** - Georges Tréville as Sherlock Holmes, Monsieur Moyse as Dr. Watson. Franco- British Film Co.

1912 - **“The Musgrave Ritual”** - Georges Tréville as Sherlock Holmes, Monsieur Moyse as Dr. Watson. Franco- British Film Co.

1912 - **“The Reigate Squires”** - Georges Tréville as Sherlock Holmes, Monsieur Moyse as Dr. Watson. Franco- British Film Co.

1912 - **“The Stolen Papers”** - Georges Tréville as Sherlock Holmes, Monsieur Moyse as Dr. Watson. Franco- British Film Co.



Georges Tréville

1912 - **“The Mystery of Boscombe Vale”** - Georges Tréville as Sherlock Holmes, Monsieur Moyse as Dr. Watson. Franco- British Film Co.

1912 - **“The Copper Beeches”** - Georges Tréville as Sherlock Holmes, Monsieur Moyse as Dr. Watson. Franco- British Film Co.

My research indicates only two of these eight films still exist.

“The Copper Beeches” which you can watch at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMgoNx-vv40>

Curiously, I didn't see a Dr. Watson in the video, did you?

“The Musgrave Ritual”, is in the holdings of Lobster Films, Paris:
<http://www.silentera.com/PSFL/data/M/MusgraveRitual1912.html>

Next I give you the various plots, reviews, and advanced notices of this series from old movie magazines.

Column - "At the Sign of the Flaming Arcs" by G. F. Blaisdell "All followers of Dr. A. Conan Doyle will be glad to learn that Sherlock Holmes is to be put into serious pictures. There have been few characters in modern fiction who have attained wider popularity than has this fascinating creation of the medico-author. Not only is Sherlock Holmes to be 'filmed,' but he is to be staged in a manner in some way unprecedented even these days when the motion picture achievement of yesterday is outstripped by the distant advance of to-day. 'Sherlock Holmes' will comprise ten reels. Of these six are already finished and will be in the country by September 1. These pictures have been made under the personal direction and supervision of Dr. Doyle. The sum paid for the rights of the stories and for supervision of the author has not been publicly announced. When it is given out film lovers will gain new faith in the permanence of the motion picture. It is sufficient at this time to say that the figure will be by far the largest amount ever paid one man or woman for work in motion pictures, and that it is fully commensurate with the extraordinary sums paid to Dr. Doyle for purely literary works. The Eclair Company of Paris is making the pictures. They will be exhibited in the United States through the agency of Universal Features."⁵⁵



Two page Ad for Union Features (formerly Universal Features) - "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" - "There is not another character in all world's fiction to approach this doctor-student-detective in point of public popularity. His army of admirers is going to make it an over-flow attraction. They will not miss seeing their hero idol.

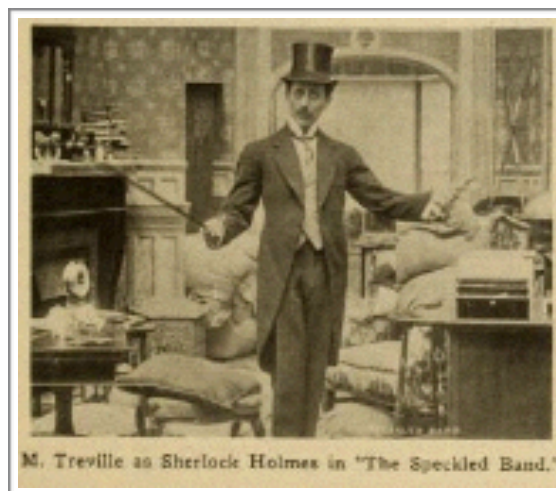
⁵⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 13 Jul. - Sep. 1912 pg. 883

These are the subjects in their probable order of release: "Speckled Band", "Reygate Squires", "Beryl Coronet", "The Copper Beeches", "Mystery of Boscombe Vale", "The Stolen Papers", "Silver Blaze".⁵⁶

Ad for Union Features

Part six continues by finishing up with various plots, reviews, and advanced notices of this series from old movie magazines. from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" series which ended part five of "Silent Sherlock".

"The Speckled Band" by G. F. Blaisdell - "The first of the series of six Sherlock Holmes pictures is now being shown at the offices of Union Features. "The Speckled Band", as will be the case with it's filmed successors, is in two reels. The most interesting fact in connection with these adventures of the greatest detective in modern fiction is that Dr. A. Conan Doyle, the popular creator himself, supervised the production. This will give satisfaction to the thousands of readers of these absorbing tales who at this time may not be followers of motion pictures. That these productions on the screen of some of the more important incidents in the career of the mythical detective-scientist will bring to the picture houses a new clientele goes without saying. If others in the series are of the same standard as that maintained throughout "The Speckled Band" the newcomers in filmdom are bound to be favorably impressed. The pictures are produced by the Franc-British Film Co. With one exception all the actors are English. The exception is the impersonator of Holmes. This character is portrayed by Georges Tréville, who has much screen experience in France. The

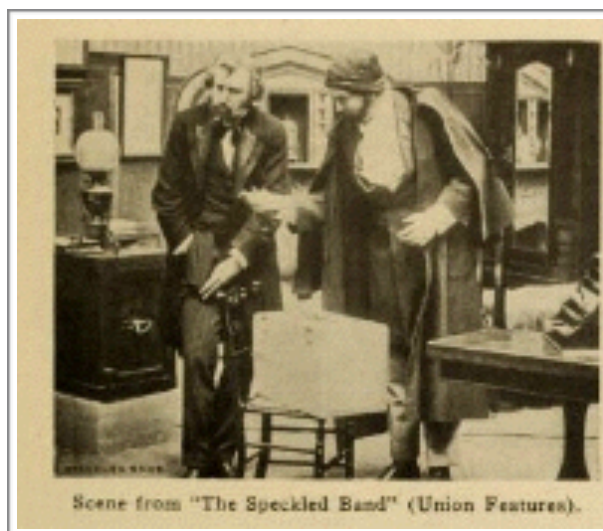


Georges Tréville

portrayal of Roylott, the fiendish father who in order to retain possession of the patrimony of his daughters accomplished the slaughter of one of them, and attempted

⁵⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 14 Oct. - Dec. 1912 pgs. 578/79

the death of the second, was of the best. So are the settings -- particularly the lawn scene of the betrothal of Julia, enlivened by the quartet of dancers. The actor's conception of Holmes will be of the greatest interest, perhaps, to those who have followed the detective through his many adventures. If the filmed interpretation shall show more of animation and less of taciturnity than was expected, allowance must be made for the absence of speech and the necessity for sufficient action adequately to indicate the intentions as well as the observations of the actor. There are necessity of some departures from the written story. These will be noted chiefly as affecting those parts of the plot which were related by the surviving daughter to the detective and Dr. Watson, who, by the way, does not appear in the picture. Here they are portrayed on the screen in their natural chronological order. The story opens with a young man prosing to Mr. Roylott for the hand of his daughter Julia. At first the father declines to sanction the match, but later recants. Mr. Roylott again examines the copy of his wife's will, which provides that the husband as trustee shall divide her fortune between her daughters, each of whom shall take possession upon their marriage. In agreeing to the marriage of Julia he determines at the same time to take steps to frustrate it in such a manner as to leave the inheritance securely in his grasp. Of a strange visitor Mr. Roylott makes a strange purchase - a securely fastened box. On the morning of the betrothal



Georges Tréville

day Julia tells her sister of a peculiar hissing she heard during the night. When, a few nights later, the household is aroused by a shriek from Julia's room, all rush in to find her dead on the floor. Helen appeals to Sherlock Holmes. The detective goes to the Roylott home and makes secret investigations. He enters the room of the dead girl, discovers the suspended cord above the bed so securely fastened to the floor; notes the concealed aperture in the wall; on the opposite side of the partition examines the safe and also hears hissing inside. When the father informs Helen that on account of the broken windows in her room (which he has carefully smashed) she will be obliged to sleep in the room

formerly occupied by her sister, Holmes acts. He had previously disguised himself, and as Juanes Rildo asked Roylott for the hand of Helen. Now he enters the room himself and awaits with confidence the appearance of the snake. When the serpent, released by Roylott, slowly comes down the wall Holmes does not attempt to kill it; he chases it back. A moment later the waiting detective and the girl hear a cry. They rush in the next room and there find Roylott dead on the floor and the snake crawling over him. The plan so carefully planned by Roylott -- the opening of the safe and of the aperture in the partition that leads to the room of his daughter, and the smearing of the path with milk so that the hungry snake would go straight to the bed of his daughter -- had failed"⁵⁷

Interesting is it not that in the above article with pictures of 'The Speckled Band' it says that Georges Treville was French, and the only actor in the pictures who was NOT ENGLISH – which seems to make the mysterious "Mr Moyse" English. He isn't in The Speckled Band photos either?

"Silver Blaze"— "Silver Blaze was the favorite! And a beautiful piece of horseflesh she was. Colonel Ross was expecting a lot from the wonderful animal on Derby Day. And then came despair! Early in the morning the stable-boy is aroused from a deep sleep caused by a drug, to find Silver Blaze gone—and the jockey, Straker, dead, with a crushed skull, in the open field nearby. Sherlock Holmes has first-hand information of this case since he was at the home of his old friend Ross, when the Colonel's beautiful horse disappeared. An investigation by the great detective gives him a sure clue to the whereabouts of the animal and he acts promptly. Colonel Ross insists that he must withdraw the favorite from the race program, but Holmes says "No!" and his command is emphatic. Rather bewildered but trusting the wisdom of his old friend, Colonel Ross goes to the track on Derby Day, but is dismayed when he can find no trace of good old 'Silver Blaze.' But Holmes bids him wait and he insists that his horse will come through a sure winner, despite his apparent mysterious absence. The race is finished and the winner comes to the Stables—and here to the nervous and astonished Colonel Ross, a little water and a soft cloth remove from the forehead of the winner a dark stain which had covered up the great blazing white mark which had given the beautiful animal the name of 'Silver Blaze.' Holmes' investigation had trailed the Derby favorite to the home of trainer Brown and he forced Brown to admit having the horse. The jockey, Straker, had attempted to steal the animal and had drugged the stable boy, but he was thrown and kicked by the racer and so his villainous plans were suddenly halted. Brown found "Silver Blaze" in the open field and thought to make him unrecognizable by painting over the great white 'blaze,' but he had not calculated on the genius of Sherlock Holmes."⁵⁸

⁵⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 14 Oct. - Dec. 1912 pg. 779

⁵⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 15 Jan. - Mar. 1913

“The Stolen Papers” — “The young diplomat Phelps is spending a few days at his fiancée’s in the country, when he is suddenly called to London by his Minister to copy some very important documents. Phelps is accompanied to London by his future brother-in-law, Harrison, who must see a creditor and try to get an extension, but the creditor insists on being paid immediately. Harrison is embarrassed, and must get money. Phelps stepped out of his office only for a moment and upon his return finds that the very important document is stolen. This so affects his mind that the Minister of War has him taken to his fiancée’s home and lodged in her brother’s room, where Sherlock Holmes comes to see him, called by Miss Harrison. During the night Phelps believes he has a nightmare. He has seen a ghost in his room. Everybody believes that he has hallucinations. Sherlock things (*sic*) the matter over and decides to take Phelps with him to London. Sherlock returns the following night and sees a shadow enter the room, open a little trap in the floor out of which he pulls something. As he passes the window, Sherlock springs at him and after a struggle, seizes a paper which proves to be the stolen document. He also secures the ring of the man who was playing the ghost. The following day there is a dinner at Sherlock Holmes’, the document is brought in on a large dish. Holmes comes to Harrison, who alone does not congratulate him and asks to shake hands. The ring is missing. Sherlock gives it back to him and for the happiness of Phelps and Miss Harrison, he will keep silent on the brother’s crime.”⁵⁹

“The Musgrave Ritual” - “The strained expression on the face of one maid servant in a group of six, gives to the mind of Sherlock Holmes, the master of all detectives, the clue to the unraveling of this remarkable and unusual mystery. The maid and the butler planes and carried out a daring robbery in which they secured a mysterious ritual which told of a hidden treasure and gave directions for the finding of the money and jewels. Following the directions, the butler and the maid locate this hidden fortune, but coming suddenly in possession of such enormous riches, turned the head of this daring woman. The decision was reached in an instant! ‘I will have it all’—and just as the butler handed out the treasure laden box, she allowed the heavy flag stone to crash down upon him, imprisoning him in this death trap where the treasure had lain for years. When he arrived on the scene, Holmes wanted a clue. By clever grouping of the servants of the household, he watched their faces. Only the maid recognized the ritual and her startled look gave Holmes his entering wedge. The forcing of a confession from the woman is quickly brought about in most dramatic fashion.”⁶⁰

“The Beryl Coronet” - A torn piece of cloth hanging on a nail proved the undoing of Moriarty. Sherlock Holmes’ keen methods and his daring actions, when convinced that he

⁵⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 15 Jan. - Mar. 1913

⁶⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 15 Jan. - Mar. 1913

is on the right trail, have unraveled many a complicated mystery, but in none have his remarkable analytic powers been more forcefully demonstrated than in “The Beryl Coronet.” The very valuable coronet having been left with Banker Holder as security for a loan, is stolen by a daring thief. The fiancée of Holder’s beautiful daughter Mary rescues the coronet, after an exciting encounter with the thieves, only to be accused of the theft of two jewels broken from it in the struggle, when it is discovered in his possession by Holder and his family, who were aroused by the commotion. Mary never doubts her sweetheart, however, and with the assistance of the great detective, the real culprits are brought to justice.

Starting with a piece of torn cloth as his only clue, Holmes rapidly works out in his own peculiar manner, the solution of the mystery.⁶¹

The year 1912 would also see the continuation of the series of Sherlock Holmes parody-comedies featuring the legendary Mack Sennett (1880 - 1960) and Fred Mace (1878 -1917). After one more effort as the “Biograph Sleuths”, Sennett and Mace emerged “The Sleuths”, now a part of Mack Sennett’s newly formed Keystone studios. The films featured both men in full Sherlockian garb.

1912 - “Their First Kidnapping Case” - Mack Sennett and Fred Mace. Biograph Pictures.

1912 - “At It Again” - Mack Sennett and Fred Mace. Keystone Films.

1912 - “A Bear Escape” - Mack Sennett and Fred Mace. Keystone Films.

"At It Again" - "This picture revives the travesty on Sherlock Holmes, in which Max Sennett and Fred Mace won unbounded popularity. A woman receives an anonymous letter advising her that her husband is flirting, and engages the detectives. They track the wrong man and spy on him, arresting him in his own home making love to his own wife. It develops that the man is a police captain, and the 'sleuths' are punished for their errors.

Comments on the Films column -"At It Again" - (Keystone) - (Split Reel with "Mabel's Lovers") - "Two amateur Sherlock Holmes detectives dominate this picture with their antics. They succeed in jumbling the plot somewhat, but they are really funny, and the plot is not important, they may be forgiven. Mack Sennett and Fred Mace play the twin detective roles."⁶²

⁶¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 15 Jan. - Mar. 1913

⁶² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 14 Oct. - Dec. 1912 pg. 660



At It Again

1912 - “**Mr. Whoops, The Detective**” - Unknown actors.. Comet Film Co.

“Mr. Whoops is a milliner detective, and for a long time has little to do in the sleuth line. He is a personal friend of the great Sherlock Holmes and invariably follows his methods in unraveling crime. Mr. Holmes receives a case. It is to run to earth a band of kidnappers which has stolen “the darling” of a Duke and Duchess who visit a fashionable summer resort. The little one has been placed in the care of a negligent maid and the disappearance of the little one raises a cry all over the place. Mr. Holmes tries his utmost to find the missing one, but is unsuccessful; so he suggests to the Duke and Duchess to employ Mr. Whoops, which they readily do. Whoops has his own idea of how the kidnappers should be captured. It is needless to say that they are most absurd and impossible. He undergoes a lot of deductions entailing humorous adventures and mishaps. But in the end he reaches a clue and eventually restores the “darling” to the distracted Duke and Duchess. The “darling” turns out to be a plain, but educated monkey.”⁶³

⁶³ The Motion Picture World, Vol 11 (Jan-Mar 1912) pg.68

1912 - “He Insisted on Being A Cashier” - Unknown actors. Gaumont Film Co.

“He Insisted on Being A Cashier” - “Harry Cower just longed to get a job as a bank cashier. But eccentric tramp that he was, he had neither clothes nor experience to recommend him. His application was turned down most coldly; so he stole the president’s pocketbook full of currency just for spite, and while being hotly pursued by bank employees, hid it unseen in a hat rack bench. He is captured but refuses to reveal the location of the stolen pocketbook. Sherlock Holmes is put on the job. He in the guise of a fellow tramp prisoner does focus the light to a head, only, however, after Cower has succeeded in obtaining the desired cashiership, in which capacity he cashes the check that gives Holmes the payment for his services rendered.”⁶⁴

1912 - “The Great Diamond Robbery” - Tom Powers as D’Ahseen, the first detective, and Arthur Rosson as Dr. Cyclop, the second detective.. Vitagraph Film Co.

“The Great Diamond Robbery” “A soubrette loses her dog and diamond ring. Two “Sherlock Holmes” deduct that the dog swallowed the ring, and that Kraut used the dog for sausages. They buy all Kraut’s sausages. The dog and the ring are found. The detectives lose their money and their reputations as sleuths.”⁶⁵

1912 - “A Midget Sherlock Holmes” - Actors unknown. Pathé Frères Film Co. (France)

“A Midget Sherlock Holmes” - “Happy Hooligan and Dinky Mike, looking for food are presented with an entire fruit store by an Italian. The reason for this generosity is, that the Italian is threatened by the black hand. After our two heroes get the store, the black-hand representatives appear and demand that the \$1,000 be left at the old stone bridge. Dinky Mike evolves a method of outwitting the black hand, which he does successfully.”⁶⁶

“A Midget Sherlock Holmes” review - “A very small boy with beard and make-up to look like a detective is the center of interest in this farce. He and his friend, the hobo, have an amusing adventure with the black-hand. There are several good laughs. The photographs are good. It is a fair filler.”⁶⁷

⁶⁴ The Motion Picture World, Vol 11 (Jan-Mar 1912) pg. 516

⁶⁵ The Motion Picture World, Vol 11 (Jan-Mar 1912) pg. 935

⁶⁶ The Motion Picture World, Vol 11 (Jan-Mar 1912) pg. 996

⁶⁷ The Motion Picture World, Vol 11 (Jan-Mar 1912) pg. 1165

Also from Pathé Films in 1912 came a series of three Holmes' parodies featuring Georges Coquet as Charlie Colms.

1912 - "Charlie Colms and the Knave of Spades" - Georges Coquet as Charlie Colms. Pathé Frères Film Co. (France)



Georges Coquet

1912 - "Charlie Colms and the Dancer's Necklace" - Georges Coquet as Charlie Colms. Pathé Frères Film Co. (France)

1912 - "The Dandies Club" - Georges Coquet as Charlie Colms. Pathé Frères Film Co. (France)

1912 - "The Rube Detective" - John E. Brennen as Rube. Kalem Film Co.

Jolly, over-weight, bald, comedian John E. Brennen (1865 - 1940), later to appear as Chief of Police Ivorytop in 1914's "Sherlock Bonehead", was one of the most well-known silent comedy stars of the early 1910's.



John E. Brennen

“The Rube Detective” - “Rube, learning through a newspaper advertisement that anyone can be taught to be a detective for \$25.00, sends in his money and receives instruction. In following the directions of the detective school, Rube is arrested for being a general nuisance. That night burglars enter and rob the village post office. The town constable is at his wits’ end to find the perpetrators of the crime and in despair at his helplessness, he decides to liberate Rube for the purpose of trailing the crooks. Rube is taken to the scene of the robbery and quickly finds valuable clues, namely a piece of cheese and a broken package of fly paper. The amateur detective proceeds to emulate the example of Sherlock Holmes, and thanks to his private instructions, he eventually succeeds in capturing the burglars. He marches them back to the village store where he is proclaimed the ‘hero of the hour’ and receives a handsome reward.”⁶⁸

1912 - “Diamond Cut Diamond” - Flora Finch as the wife who does the Sherlock Holmes bit. Vitagraph Film Co.

Flora Finch (1867 - 1940) also played a female Sherlock Holmes, know as Serena Slim - the slender sleuth, in “Heavy Villains” (1915). You can read more about Flora and other female Holmes/Watson actresses in my “Original Baker Street Babes” article at:

<http://www.nplh.co.uk/the-original-baker-street-babes.html>



Flora Finch

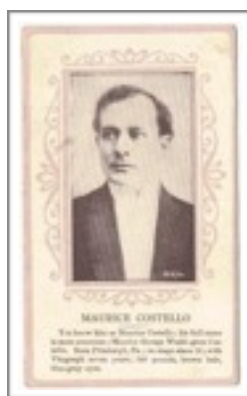
“Diamond Cut Diamond” - Manufacturers Advance notes - "John Bunny and Flora Finch as man and wife. is a comedy After being frustrated numerous times, the old boy's wife decides to do some Sherlock Holmes work on her own account. She disguise herself as an Englishman and presents a letter of introduction to her husband at his office."⁶⁹

⁶⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 12 Apr. - Jun. 1912 pg. 1056

⁶⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 12 Apr. - Jun. 1912 pg. 539

Maurice Costello (1877 - 1950) (often erroneously credited as films first Sherlock Holmes) was Lambert Chase, Detective, in nine films in 1912-1913. The two films I'm including comments on (due to their Sherlock Holmes mentions) ironically indicate Mr. Costello could never be a detective. The description on the trading card photo of Costello below, from 1915, states he has been with Vitagraph 7 years, which would be in line with his joining Vitagraph in late 1907/early 1908.

1912 - "On The Pupil of His Eye" - Maurice Costello as Chase Lambert, Detective.
Vitagraph Film Co.



Maurice Costello

"On The Pupil of His Eye" - Comments on the Films column - "Van Dyke Brooke takes the leading part in a drama that holds all the way. He shares the honors with Maurice Costello, who takes the part of a detective. It is too bad Vitagraph in a serious work of this sort did not get away from the worn out, hackneyed Sherlock Holmes cap, pipe and mannerisms. There is a real plot in this picture, and it is well executed. The flashlight scene is particularly effective."⁷⁰

1912 - "The Adventure of the Thumb Print" - Maurice Costello as Chase Lambert, Detective. Vitagraph Film Co.

"The Adventure of the Thumb Print" - "A detective story picture featuring Mr. Costello as Lambert Chase, a sleuth something on the Sherlock Holmes pattern. He is called in after a robbery and makes a few significant discoveries which, with the help of chance, lead him straight to his victim. The picture is interesting; but one feels Mr. Costello is no detective and never could be. Mr. Geo. Cooper is a better burglar. As a whole the release is fair; it is well put together, it has a story that will interest and will get past. It never rises above the commonplace, but never drags. the photography is good."⁷¹

⁷⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 13 Jul. - Sep. 1912 pg. 243

⁷¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 13 Jul. - Sep. 1912 pg. 446

1912 - "**Baby Sherlock**" - Baby Early Gorman (Earle E. Gehrig 1906 - 1982) as Little Margaret, Baby Sherlock. Powers Film Co.



Baby Early Gorman

Baby Early Gorman was 6 when she played Baby Sherlock and would eventually retire at age 11 – one wonders what she did for the rest of her (long) life.

"Baby Sherlock" - Universal Film Mfg. Co. Ad - (Split Reel with "The American Olympic Victors") - "A child cleverly secures the restoration of a sum of money that has been stolen. The story is most charmingly interpreted amid beautiful rural surroundings. Just the kind of release that will please the 'kiddies'." ⁷²

"Baby Sherlock" - Comments on the Films column - "Grandpa is set up bound and robbed by two tramps. Baby Sherlock sees the tramps dividing the money and gives the alarm." ⁷³

"Baby Sherlock" - Independent Film Comments column - "John Dobbs, an aged farmer, comes to the village with his family, and while there makes the sale of a cow for a good sum. The farm wagon drives away, filled with pleased country folk, who have been to the hamlet to do some shopping. The payment of the money is witnessed by two tramps, who follow farmer Dobbs home. He is set upon and robbed and the tramps make their escape, running in view of little Margaret, a granddaughter of the old farmer. Another child discovers the plight of the robbed man, who is bound, and neighbors set him free. There is a search for the highwaymen and the irate farmers are aided by Margaret in a most ingenious manner to capture the tramps by reason of their leaving tell-tale evidence. The story is interpreted in a most charming manner. Baby Early plays the role of the child detective in a most astute way, and is rewarded for her vigilance." ⁷⁴

⁷² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 13 Jul. - Sep. 1912 pg. 309

⁷³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 13 Jul. - Sep. 1912 pg. 447

⁷⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 13 Jul. - Sep. 1912 pg. 484

1912 - "Dublin Dan" - Barney Gilmore (1869 - 1949) as Dublin Dan - Secret Service Detective (Not a Sherlock Holmes clone). Solax Film Co.

"Dublin Dan" - Reviewed by Louis Reeves Harrison - ".... Dublin Dan of the Secret Service, a detective of valorous rather than subtle methods. Freed from the restrictions of Sherlock Holmes cautious methods, he penetrates the very centers of villainy without being killed or even seriously injured."⁷⁵

1912 - "The Adventure of The Button" - John Stepping (1870 -1932) or E. H. Calvert (1863 - 1941) as Young Sherlock. Essanay Film Co.

"The Adventure of The Button" - Licensed Film Stories column - "Caught in a drenching downpour of rain one day, Hobbs hikes for the nearest store and purchases a raincoat. Arriving home with his purchase he finds that one of the buttons is missing. Meanwhile a crook buys a duplicate of the raincoat at the same store and, that night, enters the place and escapes with the contents of the cash draw. The only clue found by the frantic storekeeper is a button torn from the coat as the thief has escaped out the window. Next morning the storekeeper posts a notice in his window with the button, offering a reward for the capture of the thief. Passing the window Mrs. Hobbs sees the advertised button and immediately suspects it to be the one from her husband's raincoat. Meanwhile, the thief who has a room directly above the Hobbs' apartment, also sees the sign, hastens to the house, secretes the money under the bed mattress, then calls the janitor and makes him a preset of the raincoat. Young Sherlock, a would-be detective, having been informed of the robbery, catches sight of Hobbs on the street wearing the raincoat with the missing button and attempts to arrest him as he is entering the apartment, but Hobbs takes him for a lunatic. Seeing this from the window, Mrs. Hobbs, fearing for Hubby's safety, locks him in a bedroom and has an awful time with a bill collector whom she takes for a sleuth. It is not until the janitor is called in and explains where he got his raincoat that the capture of the real thief is made by Mrs. Hobbs as he attempts to jump from the window. Consequently she is handed over the reward and matters end happily after all."⁷⁶

⁷⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 13 Jul. - Sep. 1912 pg. 654

⁷⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 14 Oct. - Dec. 1912 pg. 1198

1912 - "A Clue in The Dust" - James Craig as Brien the Sherlock Holmes Detective. Majestic Film Co.

"A Clue in The Dust" - "A detective story just filmed by the Majestic, in one reel, under the title of 'A Clue in The Dust', contains 124 scenes. The action is clean cut and the story is excellently told. James Craig as a Sherlock Holmes detective does some very good work."⁷⁷

A list of other Holmes related silent films from 1912 includes the following.

1912 - "The Pipe" - Marshall P. Wilder (1859 -1915) as Sherlie Holmes, Detective. Vitagraph Film Co.

1912 - "Il violino e la pipa" or, "A Violin and a Pipe" - Giuseppe Gambardella (1880 - 1950). Società Italiana Cines.

1912 - "Sureluck Jones, Detective" - Actors unknown. Thanhouser Film Co.

1912 - "The Right Clue" - William Robert Daly as The Master Detective. Independant Moving Pictures Co.

Sherlocko The Monk was a popular comic strip drawn by Gus Mager from 9 december 1910 to 1913 in Hearst newspapers. Gus Mager left Hearst and worked for the Sunday's issues of the New York World with Sherlocko & Watso renamed Hawkshaw the Detective and the Colonel, until 1922 and again from 1931 to 1952. On 20 january 1912, Imp Films Co. released a silent movie: "The Flag of Distress" where Sherlocko made his first appearance on screen.

1912 - "The Flag of Distress" - H. S. 'Red' Mack as Mr. Sherlocko, J. W. Cumpson as Reuben Wilson. Imp Films Co.

"The Flag of Distress" - Imp Players - Hayward Seaton Mack (1882 - 1921), J. W. Cumpson (1866 - 1913). "Reuben Wilson has an appointment with a couple of friends, who are awaiting him outside his house. Finding it impossible to escape the sharp attentions of his wife, he signals to them with a flag. Finally making a dash for it, he is also accompanied by his suspicious but unrelenting spouse. But his two friends are loyal. They get up a row with Reuben and run away and are, of course, pursued by Reuben, who thus obtains liberty to join his friends in a visit to a masquerade, where the three of them have a high old time. Meanwhile, Mrs. Wilson seeks detective aid in finding her husband. Sherlocko finds the flag of distress, and by some intuitive process, known only to the

⁷⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 14 Oct. - Dec. 1912 pg. 1304

detective mind, tracks the deceitful Reuben down to the dancing hall, where he is surprised by his wife in the character of Mephistopheles. Sherlocko gains a reputation for acuteness and Reuben has had a good time.”⁷⁸

“The Saturday Imp comedies have acquired widespread popularity for their humorous subjects and acting. J. W. Cumpson, whose fame as a moving picture comedian is so widespread, appears in them and has already made millions of friends for himself.

In "The Flag of Distress" Cumpson gets a chance of which he takes the fullest advantage. "The Flag" is an emblem by which he conveys to his friends the desired information that his wife has him under such strict surveillance that he cannot accompany them to a masked ball. However, he contrives by a clever stratagem to elude the lady's vigilance, and he and his friends make their way to the masquerade, where they have a specially good time. Meanwhile, the poor lady, in distress over the mysterious disappearance of her husband, consults the great detective, Mr. Sherlocko, who, picking up the "Flag of Distress" on the sidewalk is enabled to trace hubby to his destination, a dance hall, and not to, as the poor lady supposed, a place where his life was in danger. A feature of the picture is the droll acting of H. S. Mack as the detective and the fun-making antics of J. W. Cumpson in the role of the erring hubby. "The Flag of Distress" will no doubt be popular with, the Saturday Imp audiences.”⁷⁹

H. S. Mack - Biography pièce states - "... familiarly known as 'Red Mack' He in two or three Imp comedies, gave an excellent modern embodiment of Sherlock Holmes.”⁸⁰



H. S. ‘Red’ Mack and J. W. Cumpson

⁷⁸ The Moving Picture World, 13 Jan. 1912, pg. 154

⁷⁹ Moving Picture News, 13 Jan. 1912, p. 16

⁸⁰ “The Implet”, May 4, 1912 Vol 1 #16, pg. 4

1912 - **“The Kid and The Sleuth”** - H. S. ‘Red’ Mack as Mr. Sherlocko, J. W. Cumpson as Reuben Wilson. Imp Films Co.

1912 - **“The Right Clue”** - H. S. ‘Red’ Mack as Mr. Sherlocko, J. W. Cumpson as Reuben Wilson. Imp Films Co.

The character Sherlocko would show up again in 1912, but this time with a Dr. Watso, in a pair of films apparently not related to the H.S. Mack, Imp Films series, but for Champion Films.



Champion Films Ad

‘Further proof of Sherlocko the Monk’s popularity can be found in this notice, from a December 9, 1911 issue of Billboard: ‘Mr. Mark M. Dintenfass obtained on December 1 the exclusive right to produce motion pictures featuring the famous cartoon detective Sherlocko the Monk assisted by Watso. The contract was made and signed December 1 by Gus Mager, originator of the cartoons, and is to run for a period of one year.’⁸¹ How it was an exclusive right I can’t say, as the three Imp Film Co. films listed prior to this appear to have use the character.

1912 - **“The Robbery at The Railroad Station”** - Unknown actors as Sherlocko & Dr. Watso. Champion Film Co.

⁸¹ <http://www.tcj.com/the-screwball-comics-of-gus-mager-hippos-monks-and-sherlock-holmes-1904-1947/>

“Sherlock and Watso, the world-famous detectives are quietly ensconced in their office when suddenly there bursts in on their cogitations a railroad official. He is evidently in great distress, and we soon discover its cause. He has met with a loss – a daring robbery has occurred at his station. It is no less than the loss of his lantern. Giving every assurance to the agitated owner, the keen-minded sleuths set forth on the trail. An investigation is made at the station with the aid of the magnifying glass in the minutest detail, when finally his most ingenious methods unfold the clue. They follow it up and at



Sherlocko & Dr. Watso

last – but hold! Let’s anticipate. Seated at a table, is a man quietly reading by the light of a lantern. This man is Pecko and he it is who has caused the terrible upset in the station agent’s affairs. But why? His answer to Sherlocko is, he wanted to read by a borrowed light. The sleuths, however, recover the ‘glim’ from him, leaving him his bit of candle, with the fair warning to never again tamper with his neighbor’s goods.”⁸²

1912 - “The Henpeckos” - Unknown actors as Sherlocko & Dr. Watso. Champion Film Co.

⁸² Moving Picture News, Feb. 1912



“The Henpeckos’, a second Sherlocko half-reel silent comedy was released in May, 1912. Shortly after, the Champion Film Company was merged into Universal Studios, and no further Sherlocko films were made, as far as can be determined.”⁸³

Sherlocko & Dr. Watso



1912 - "The Hypnotic Detective" - Charles Clary (1873 - 1931) as Professor Locksley. Selig Polyscope Company.

Charles Clary

"The Hypnotic Detective" was “based on 'The Norwood Builder' with Professor Locksley as a Sherlock Holmes-like character”⁸⁴

⁸³ <http://www.tcj.com/the-screwball-comics-of-gus-mager-hippos-monks-and-sherlock-holmes-1904-1947/>

⁸⁴ Bergem, Phil, “Checklist of Holmes and Holmes Related Films”, 2012

"The Hypnotic Detective" - "As revenge for being rejected by the Widow Morton, Dr. Pelham fakes his own death and frames her son Alfred for the crime. Alfred enlists the help of Professor Locksley, The Hypnotic Detective, to solve the crime."⁸⁵

1912 - "**Sherlock Holmes und seine Arbeit**" - Actors unknown. k. Ang. Films? (Germany).

1912 - "**Dupin and the Stolen Necklace**" - Actors unknown. Urbanova Film Co.

1912 - "**Schlau, Schlauer, am Schlauesten**" - Actors unknown. Eclipse (France)
"Smart, Smarter and Smartest" - a meeting of detectives Nick Winter, Nick Carter, Nat Pinkerton and Sherlock Holmes.

The year 1912 also saw the final three episodes of the Sheerluck Finch series of comedies parodying Sherlock Holmes, and Sheerluck Finch was still tracking down Three Fingered Kate.

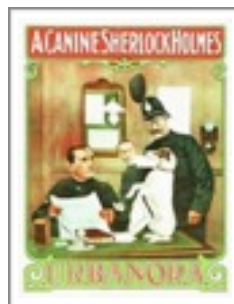
1912 - "**Three Fingered Kate, The Case of The Chemical Fumes**" - Charles Calvert as Sheerluck Finch. Cosmos Pictures (U.K.).

1912 - "**Three Fingered Kate, The Wedding Presents**" - Charles Calvert as Sheerluck Finch. Cosmos Pictures (U.K.).

1912 - "**Three-Fingered Kate: The Pseudo-Quartette**" - Charles Calvert as Sheerluck Finch. Cosmos Pictures (U.K.).

Last but not least for the year 1912, we have a predecessor to Wishbone, in Spot the Urbanora Dog.

1912 - "**A Canine Sherlock Holmes**" - Starring Spot, a dog who leads a detective to a robber's hideout and fetches the police. Urban Trading Co. (U.K.).



Spot

⁸⁵ <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0479480/>

New Years Day, 1913 would see the release of "Cousins of Sherlock Holmes". Notable in this film is it's star Fraunie Fraunholz (1876 - 1938) because he will be featured as Burstup Holmes in the next series of films to be discussed for 1913.

1913 - "Cousins of Sherlock Holmes" - Fraunie Fraunholz as Jim Spike, alias Jim Nail. Solax Film Co.

"Cousins of Sherlock Holmes" - Solax Compay Ad - " Because there happens to be a striking resemblance between Edgar Carroll, and a noted criminal, Edgar is pestered by the sleuths. He gets even on some would be detectives by disguising as a woman, and then there ensues a merry chase, and there is a complication in mistaken identities."⁸⁶

"Cousins of Sherlock Holmes" - Comments on the Films column - "The police are on the lookout for Jim Spike, alias Jim Nail, a dangerous highway robber, who has been working with more or less success without being apprehended. The chief of the detective bureau puts two detectives on the case and enjoins them to be very careful in their investigations, and not to come back without landing the prisoner. The three detectives soon come upon Edgar Carroll, in whom they immediately see a striking resemblance to Spike, the crook. They shadow Edgar from place to place, and soon his life becomes on long game of hide and seek with the detectives. Finally Edgar consults his friend and they both decide to give the detectives a merry chase. Edgar and his friend dress as women and parade the streets in their ludicrous female attire. They flirt with the detectives and entice them away from their duty. They do not discover the identity of their charming female companions until they accidentally come upon them one evening and see them leisurely, and with enjoyment, smoking clear Havana cigars. This shocking and unfeminine spectacle arouses their suspicions, but the boys are too clever for these cousins of Sherlock Holmes and, with the aid of an automobile, give them the slip, but the detectives eventually turn up again and arrest the masqueraders. However, they do not remain long in the police station, for the real Jim Spike turns up soon as the crook who tried to snatch Jane Ellery's purse on the ferryboat. Jane is Edgar Carroll's sweetheart, and she recognizes him. A few more complications arise, however, until Edgar and the crook are seen side by side and their likeness discovered, and the cousins of Sherlock Holmes see they have been misguided in their investigations."⁸⁷

In 1913 Canadian comedian Fraunie Fraunholz played Burstup Holmes in a number of silent film shorts. The director Alice Guy (1873-1968), of the "Burstup Holmes" series, was the film industry's first ever female director.

⁸⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 14 Oct. - Dec. 1912 pg. 1257

⁸⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 14 Oct. - Dec. 1912 pg. 1332



Fraunie Fraunholz

1913 - “Burstup Holmes, Detective” - Fraunie Fraunholz as Burstup Holmes. Solax Film Co.

1913 - “The Case of the Missing Girl” - Fraunie Fraunholz as Burstup Holmes. Solax Film Co.

1913 - “The Mystery of the Lost Cat” - Fraunie Fraunholz as Burstup Holmes. Solax Film Co.

1913 - “Burstup Holmes’ Murder Case” - Fraunie Fraunholz as Burstup Holmes. Solax Film Co.

"Burstup Homes' Murder Case" - Comments on the Films column - "Broad farce. There is a burlesque Sherlock Holmes. Blanche Cornwall and Darwin Karr have the leads. The former is more convincing in her laughter than she is in her tears. The story is slight."⁸⁸

You can view "Burstup Homes' Murder Case" at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFm9glpURdE>

The year 1913 would also see the final three films of the series of Sherlock Holmes parody-comedies featuring the legendary Mack Sennett (1880 - 1960) and Fred Mace (1878 -1917), as “The Sleuths”, now a part of Mack Sennett’s Keystone studios. The films featured both men in full Sherlockian garb. After the Fred Mace departure to Majestic Studios, Sennett would still make one more Holmes parody without Mace. Also, Mace would make a Sherlock Holmes parody for his new studio.

⁸⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 16 Apr. - Jun. 1913 pg. 49

1913 - **"The Stolen Purse"** - Mack Sennett and Fred Mace. Keystone Films.

1913 - **"The Sleuths' Last Stand"** - Mack Sennett and Fred Mace. Keystone Films.

1913 - **"The Sleuths at the Floral Parade"** - Mack Sennett and Fred Mace. Keystone Films.



Mack Sennett and Fred Mace

1913 - **"Their First Execution"** - Mack Sennett without Fred Mace. Keystone Films.

1913 - **"The Tongue Mark"** - Fred Mace as Surelock Holmes. Majestic Motion Picture Co.

"The Tongue Mark" - "Surelock Homes is called to detect a burglar. He looks for finger prints and discovers a "tongue mark" made by a dog, although he does not know this. He rushes through the street, examining tongues with various amusing results and finally arrests the dog. Proudly he brings his captive before the fair victim of the burglary, but in the meantime the real culprit has been arrested by a policeman and the valuables discovered. So Surelock Homes gets nothing for all his trouble, not even a kind word."⁸⁹

1913 - **"A Would Be Detective"** - Actors unknown. Gem Film Co.

"A Would Be Detective" - Comments on the film column - "A short picture of burlesque Sherlock comedy. The leading actor may have never seen Fred Mace, in his old Biograph success, but his work is a most excellent imitation of the present Majestic comic."⁹⁰

⁸⁹ <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0175247/mediaindex>

⁹⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 17 Jul. - Sep. 1913 pg. 485

1913 - “Sherlock Holmes Solves ‘The Sign of The Four’” - Henry Benham (1886 - 1969) as Sherlock Holmes and Charles Gunn (1883 - 1918) as Dr. Watson. Thanhouser Picture Co.



Henry Benham and Charles Gunn

“Sherlock Holmes Solves ‘The Sign of The Four’” - “Major Sholto, a retired British army officer, who has amassed wealth in India in a mysterious manner, dies suddenly. His two sons were unable to find any trace of the wealth. Search the house patiently, and at last in an attic, concealed by a secret panel, discovered a brass bound box. It contains jewels of almost fabulous value and a letter, telling them that Mary Morstan, the orphan daughter of one of Sholto’s brother officers in India was entitled to an equal share of the treasure. Thaddeus, the younger brother, is willing to carry out his dead father’s wishes, but Bartholomew, the elder, insists that they alone should possess the jewels. Finally Thaddeus, unable to persuade his brother to relent, writes Miss Morstan an anonymous letter, telling her that she has been wronged, and naming the place where they can meet. Miss Morstan, perplexed by the strange communication, consults Sherlock Holmes. Holmes and Dr. Watson, his associate, keep the appointment with Miss Morstan and are led by Thaddeus Sholto to his home. Thaddeus tells Miss Morstan of her inheritance, and the he intends to force his brother Bartholomew to surrender her share of the treasure. They reach the Sholto mansion, and Thaddeus goes to his brother’s room to summon him. But he comes dashing down stairs, terror stricken. Holmes and Watson dash up the stairs, leading to the room. There, huddled in his chair, is Bartholomew and on his breast a torn sheet of paper, with five words scrawled upon it. “The Sign of the Four.” The treasure is gone! A quick examination shows that the man has been killed by a poisoned thorn which is lodged in his head. In the garret Holmes comes upon fresh evidence of intruder. In the heavy dust are impressions of a boot and of a wooden leg, and the imprint of two little bare feet. The detective hurries to the roof, where, dangling to the ground below, is a heavy rope. Securing a blood hound he racks the fugitive down,

he chase finally leading him and his co-worker, Dr. Watson, to the little ship-yard where he learned that a man with a wooden leg, accompanied by a little East Indian, had hired a motor boat and sailed up the river. Holmes, in another boat, pursues. The fugitives are captured, but not before they throw the treasure overboard. Then Jonathan Small, the man with the wooden leg, and his faithful follower, little Tonga, whose deadly blow pipe had killed Sholto, are brought to Holmes' rooms and the casket opened. The jewels are not there. The treasure had disappeared forever."⁹¹

"Sherlock Holmes Solves 'The Sign of The Four'" - "This two-reel film gives us a new kind of Sherlock Holmes, a younger and heavier built man than we usually see in the part. But once the story gets into action, with its weird, oriental atmosphere, we forget everything else. The story of the Agra treasure is pictured in an intensely fascinating manner. The one-legged man, the East Indian with his blow-pipe, the Sholtos, the Baker street lodgings, the scenes in India, and the various exciting episodes combine to make this a successful offering. The treasure never comes into the hands of the rightful owner, Mary, as it was cast into the river. A strong production of a famous narrative."⁹²

"The Intermission"

Here are a potpourri of articles and fan letters from movie magazines of 1913 with Sherlock Holmes mentions in them.

Article - Making Pictures with Bloodhounds - Long article about a Mr. Oldcott and a Mr. Clark and the dangers of working with dogs in film "The Mystery of Pine Tree Camp". The article ends with these two lines - "And there he hung until these six canine Sherlock Holmeses were corralled and tied together. Since the Mr. Oldcott walks with a limp and every time I see a pup I have a quiet smile to myself."⁹³

Chicago Letter by Jas. S. McQuade - Commentary about "gun play" in moving pictures being taken up by the judiciary, police authorities and reformers in Chicago. In his argument against banning such action he says, "... Why allow any drama or novel containing a robbery or murder to be performed or published? Let us take Sherlock Holmes away from the shelves of the library. ..." ⁹⁴

The Photoplaywright column - Man writes in - A Three Finger Script - "I am sending you drawing of my right hand, which has two fingers missing. I have been a railroad

⁹¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 15 Jan. - Mar. 1913 pg. 822

⁹² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 15 Jan. - Mar. 1913 pg.998

⁹³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 16 Apr. - Jun. 1913 pg. 53

⁹⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 18 Oct. - Dec. 1913 pg. 249

brakeman for seven years and can be useful to you in a railroad scenario or maybe you can use my hand in some Sherlock Holmes plays..."⁹⁵ (He would be perfect for "The Engineer's Thumb")

Facts and Comments - Directors discussion - "... It needs no Sherlock Holmes to deduce the director's taste, his breeding, his views of life and his environments from what he shows us on the screen. ..." ⁹⁶

“Please Take Your Seats for the Rest of the Programme”

1913 - “The Eye of Krishla” - Henry Benham (1886 - 1969) as Police Captain Smith. Thanhouser Picture Co.

"The Eye of Krishla" - Independent Film Stories - "The police captain had solved a couple of mysteries, and as news was light, the papers had given him much publicity, many of the writers declaring that Sherlock Holmes, Vidocq and William J. Burns were in the infant class compared to Police Captain Smith, it tackled his vanity, and caused him to look down upon the young man upon whom his daughter had cast her affections. In fact he forbade them to marry, announcing that his son-in-law must be "a man of brains." The suitor seemingly accepts the edict, and as days passed, the captain gradually forgot him. Then another opportunity to distinguish himself came along, and he accepted it with alacrity. A Countess was robbed of a wonderful diamond, "The Eye of Krishla," and the circumstances surrounding the theft were most mysterious. It seemed to be a case calling for personal attention, and Captain Smith plunged into it. From the Countess he received all the details, which really did not explain anything. The captain, however, picked up several clues, including a glove, which he failed to recognize as his own. Outside the window were plainly marked footprints, and with his faithful police dog, the gallant officer took up the trail. It led to his own house, and worse than that, to his own room. The Countess had followed him, full of admiration of American detective work. Seemingly by accident, she knocked a cake of soap from the washstand. The dog crossed to it, the Countess picked it up. Then the chase ended, for in the cake of soap was embedded the diamond which the Countess called "the Eye of Krishla." The detective could not explain it, but sank helplessly into a chair as the Countess left the room haughtily, the diamond in her hand. Later the detective went downstairs, and was shocked to find the Countess smoking a cigar and talking to his daughter. Then he found that the noblewoman was the suitor he had flouted. He was indignant at first, but when the young man softly said that "your son-in-law can be relied upon to keep the secret of the Eye of Krishla," he realized that the time had come for him to surrender gracefully unless he

⁹⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 18 Oct. - Dec. 1913 pg. 1001

⁹⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 18 Oct. - Dec. 1913 pg. 1387

wanted the city to laugh at "the famous" detective. So, like Davy Crockett's coon, he crawled down gracefully, and gave his consent to the marriage"⁹⁷

1913 - "The Mystery of West Sedgwick" - Bigelow Cooper (1878 -1953) as Fleming Stone, the older detective, Sherlock Cooper, and Augustus Phillips (1874 - 1944) as Herbert Burroughs, the younger detective. Edison Film Mftg. Co.



Bigelow Cooper

"The Mystery of West Sedgwick" Reviewed by Louis Reeves Harrison - "A detective story of exciting suspense dramatized from "The Gold Bag" by Carolyn Wells.... A true dramatic situation is, however, set up, true according to some critics, when a detective of penetrating intelligence, represented ably by Bigelow Cooper, is brought into a case.....Sir Conan, formerly Dr. Doyle, has accustomed us to the detective who perceives what is so minute or so remote as to leave scarcely any traces of its image on the mind, who can form, from many complex images an idea, draw strange inferences and reach marvelous conclusions. Such is Cooper in this role. He opens with a deduction made from a combination of trivial facts that the unknown wearer of a pair of shoes left with a bootblack is deaf in his right ear and out the previous evening with a young lady in Brooklyn. Sherlock Holmes has so familiarized us with this sort of stuff that we gulp it down and manage to hold it there until Sherlock Cooper is called to solve "The Mystery of West Sedgwick," where his will combats combats and overcomes puzzling and opposing evidence..."⁹⁸

⁹⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 16 Apr. - Jun. 1913 pg. 1400

⁹⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 17 Jul. - Sep. 1913 pg. 619

1913 - **“Homlock Shermes”** - Pearl White, as Pearl the girl detective. Crystal Film Co.



Pearl White

“Homlock Shermes” - “Pearl, the girl detective, is at home chafing with inactivity and the want of something to do. She decides to go out for a walk in the hope that something in the way of an adventure may come her way. Fred Hanley, a young man, has become a confirmed drunkard. A friend of his brings a doctor to visit Hanley. Hanley becomes excited during their visit and frightens them nearly unto death by shooting at them with a revolver. They leave in haste, but decide to lock Hanley in his room. This they do, leaving a servant to watch the door. Hanley, crazed for want of drink, writes a note that he is wrongfully imprisoned, and offers \$5,000 reward for anyone who liberates him. This he throws out the window, just as Pearl is passing the house. She picks it up, reads it and realizes that her quest for an adventure has borne fruit. She immediately goes home and disguises as a boy. Coming back, she applies for a job and the woman downstairs employs her and puts the supposed boy to work. Pearl has a hard time of it, peeling potatoes and scrubbing floors, but with never a chance to liberate the unfortunate, supposed prisoner. Later, however, she is caught upstairs listening at the door by the servant, and is kicked downstairs. The woman pulls her ears for leaving the kitchen, and all in all, Pearl is treated exactly how a real detective should not be. However, at last, Pearl succeeds in gaining access to the room and is fondly dreaming of the five thousand dollar reward and her noble work and bravery, when Hanley's friends enter and explain. Pearl appreciates that she has been stung and beats a hasty retreat, resolving to detect in a more profitable way in the hereafter.”⁹⁹

⁹⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 17 July - Sep. 1913

1913 - "The Sherlock Holmes Girl" - Bliss Milford, as Sally the Sherlock Holmes girl. Edison Film Co.



Bliss Milford

"The Sherlock Holmes Girl" - "Sally was the maid-of-all-work at the Palace Hotel, Jonesville. Sally's rise to fame was occasioned solely because some absent-minded guest had left a book behind him, when he departed from the somewhat limited splendors of the Palace hotel. The book was a treatise on the ancient and gentle art of detecting. Filled with a desperate zeal to distinguish herself, Sally decided to 'shadow' the very next guest who arrived in the hotel. The first guest who arrived after Sally's decision was plainly a suspicious character. To begin with, he was quietly dressed and perfectly respectable in appearance. So Sally 'shadowed' the stranger in the most approved fashion. When he locked the door to his room she looked over the transom. Sure enough he took some jewels out of his suitcase. Sally instantly summoned the police. Entering the room to keep the man under closer surveillance, she accidentally pointed a fan, shaped like a pistol at him. Instantly his hands shot above his head. The funny part of it all was he really was the thief. Sally pocketed the reward and departed."¹⁰⁰

1913 - "The Amateur Sleuth" - Actors unknown. Guumont.

"John Plum Duff receives a threatening note asking for \$4.98 to be paid within a limited time. Duff is frightened, and, in reply to his advertisement for a detective, Herlock Sholmes gives his services. How Sholmes finally rounds up the would-be blackhands and places them in the custody of the police, makes who turn out to be the servants of a millionaire, a fitting climax to a scintillating comedy."

¹⁰⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 19 Jan. - March 1914 pg. 17

1913 - "The Master Crook" - Arthur Finn as the master crook, a Sherlock Holmes criminal style. British & Colonial Kinematograph Co. (U.K.)

A crook returns stolen gems after a blind girl frees him when a gang tie him upside-down in a sewer.

"The Master Crook" - "The Master Crook is not an ordinary criminal, nor is this an ordinary crime story. Like Sherlock Holmes, the Master Crook is a character apart. ..." ¹⁰¹

We will finish the year 1913 with an assortment of silent efforts from France and Italy.

1913 - "One on Tooty" - Unknown female actress as Shamlock Bones. Eclair Film Co. (France).

"One For Tooty" - Tooty would rather read detective stories than eat...Her father and brother devise a scheme to cure her of her dime store novel habit by appearing as criminals...Tooty, dressed in her complete Shamlock Bones outfit, follows the suspicious men to a saloon... Shamlock Tooty summons the police and bursts into the criminal lair... she grabs the loot bag...The only thing in the loot bag is a cook book. The father and brother remove their disguises and proceed to tell Tooty the only mystery she needs to learn how to solve is the mystery of making eatable ham and eggs. ¹⁰²

1913 - "L'uomo misterioso" or "The Mysterious Man" - Augusto Mastripietri as Robert Marsh, Sherlock Holmes type detective. Cines Kleine Co. (Italy)

"The Mysterious Man" - "...The story smacks of Sherlock Holmes type, and the mystery is well preserved till the final scene. The detective impresses one as being very pompous and self important 'These are the marks of a small, well-shaped shoe'.... seeing that.... in the shrubbery assisted in no way, whatever in the apprehension of the criminal. Nor does the fact that the detective persists in smoking a briar pipe in and out of season.... he introduces himself to the commissioner of police and puffs smoke into his face during the conversation.....Helen's old sweetheart, Robert Marsh, who is in the detective business, arrives and immediately plans to capture the assassin and blackmailerthe mysterious man turning out to be Helen's father, Professor Mortimer." ¹⁰³

¹⁰¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 18 Oct. - Dec. 1913 pg. 1607

¹⁰² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 18 Oct. - Dec. 1913 pg. 912.

¹⁰³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 17 Jul. - Sep. 1913 pg. 684

1913 - "The Runaway Uncle" - Actors unknown. Eclair Film Co. (France).

"The Runaway Uncle" - Comments on the film column - "A rather amusing farce comedy, in which three Sherlock Holmes detectives trail Uncle William, who has runaway and married. They discover him at the reception. The plot is eccentric rather than funny."¹⁰⁴

1913 - "Più forte che Sherlock Holmes" or, "Stronger Than Sherlock Holmes" - Domenico Gambino as Salterelli. Itala Film Co. (Italy)

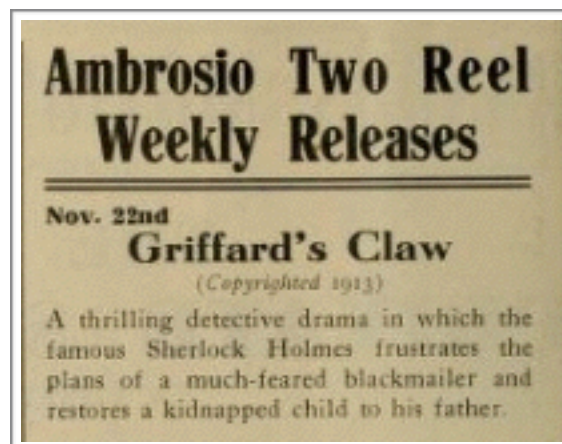
1913 - "Plus fort que Sherlock Holmes" - Georges Vinter as Nick Winter. Pathé Frères Film Co. (France) (same as above prob.)

1913 - "Fricot emulo di Sherlock Holmes" or, "Fricot emulo de Charley Combs" - Ernesto Vase as Fricot. Ambrosio Film Co. (Italy)

1913 - "Tweedledum and The Necklace" (listed as year 1911 in some sources) - Actors unknown. Ambrosio Film Co. (Italy)

There's the ultimate cross-over :: Tweedledum and Sherlock Holmes!

1913 - "Griffard's Claw" or, "Gli artigli di Griffard" or, "In The Grip of The Eagle's Claw"- Actors unknown. Ambrosio Film Co. (Italy)



Griffard's Claw

¹⁰⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 17 Jul. - Sep. 1913 pg. 962

"Griffard's Claw" - Plot summary column - "Mr. Delmion, a wealthy manufacturer, receives a note from the much feared Griffard that unless a considerable amount of money be deposited at the Cat's bridge, his little son, Mario, would be kidnapped. Much disturbed he appeals to Sherlock Holmes, a well known detective, for assistance, whereupon four guards are immediately stationed to protect his home. His two servants, with a view to derive a benefit for themselves, decide to become accomplices of Griffard, and with the aid of drink and opium they succeed in stupefying the two guards watching the child's room, and also Mr. Delmion. Now that all is safe little Mario is put into a valise and thrown from the window to Griffard's men, who have overcome the other two detectives outside the house. The next morning Sherlock Holmes gets a disconcerting note from Griffard and immediately goes to his clients house where he finds all the inmates under the influence of the drug. The treacherous servants, wishing to avoid avert suspicion, also have inhaled the opium. Although an immediate alarm is made no trace can be found of the child or his kidnappers. Some time later the suspicions of the guards are aroused by a beggar slinking around the house. Upon searching him at the detective's office a note intended for the servants is found concealed in his clothes. Sherlock Holmes, assuming the beggar's disguise, meets the unsuspecting servants and takes them by surprise. In the meantime little Mario has been taken to a new hiding place. Seeking a means of deliverance he writes a note, which he puts into the role given him for dinner, and throws it out the window. Joseph, a young and hungry shepherd lad passing along, gratefully picks up the bread and discovers the message. Giving it to his father they immediately inform Mr. Delmion, who starts out in an automobile with a search party to the designated den. Little Mario's jailer, seeing them advancing, grabs the child and escapes with him. They follow his footprints but are soon without any guidance. The nimble witted detective, however, seeing an airplane leisurely flying around beckons to it. Entering the machine and with powerful telescope he explores the ground and soon discovers the jailer. Descending, he enters the deserted hut in which he has taken refuge, and the kidnapper is soon rendered powerless, while little Mario finds protection in his father's protecting arms."¹⁰⁵

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's first published work, "A Study in Scarlet", would find its first screen adaptation, not once but twice, in the year 1914. A couple of other very significant but little known Sherlock Holmes film firsts would also occur in 1914. The first animated Sherlock Holmes film, and the first all black cast Sherlock Holmes film, featuring a black Sherlock Holmes, appeared, and on the same reel!

¹⁰⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 18 Oct. - Dec. 1913 pg. 922

In 1914, Conan Doyle authorized the silent film “A Study in Scarlet” to be produced in the U.K. by film-maker George B. Samuelson. Sherlock Holmes was played by James Bragington, an accountant who had never before (and never after) worked as an actor. He was hired for his resemblance to Holmes as presented in the sketches originally published with the story. There was no Dr. Watson in the film. Due to the success of this film, or to not wanting to be outdone, a second U.S. version was produced that same year by Francis Ford. Conan Doyle sold the rights of this story to Beeton's magazine and never made a penny out of the novel again; this is why he did not interfere when the Francis Ford version of "A Study In Scarlet" was filmed. Francis Ford's younger brother, John Ford, later to become one of America's greatest movie directors, played Dr. Watson. Unfortunately, both films are lost.



James Bragington

1914 - "A Study In Scarlet" - James Bragington, as Sherlock Holmes, No Watson in the film. Samuelson Film Mfg.



James Bragington

1914 - "A Study In Scarlet" - Francis Ford, as Sherlock Holmes and Jack (John) Ford as Dr. Watson. Gold Seal Films.



Francis Ford

"A Study in Scarlet" - (Gold Seal) - (two parts) - Dec 29 - Independent Film Stories - "This is the first of the Sherlock Holmes' stories by the famous English author, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Sherlock Holmes, and his friend Dr. Watson, receives an invitation from Mr. Gregson, of Scotland Yard, to assist in unraveling a murder mystery. Holmes makes a careful study of the case and as result of his ingenious deductions rounds up the murderer, one Jefferson Hope, a cabman. The man confesses his guilt and tells his life story and of the vengeance of the many wrongs he has suffered at the hands of the deadman in the years gone by. Before the prisoner comes to trial he dies from heart failure. This is another victory for Holmes and his wonderful deductive methods, as the officers of Scotland Yard had all but fastened the quilt upon another and an innocent person."¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 22 Oct. - Dec. 1914 pgs. 1892/1894

1914 - “The Tale of a Chicken” - Maha Raja as Sherlock Jackson Holmes. Lubin Manufacturing Company

1914 - “Another Tale” - Featuring Sherlock Bug. Lubin Manufacturing Company

The comedy film, “The Tale of a Chicken”, released by Lubin Manufacturing Company, on April 28th, 1914, is probably the true first all-black Sherlock Holmes film. Not only does it hold that distinction, but the cartoon sharing the reel with it, “Another Tale” is probably the first animated appearance of a Holmes character on film. “Another Tale” precedes the animated “The Adventures of Mr. Nobody Holmes” (1916), the earliest animated Holmes on record by two years. “The Tale of a Chicken” precedes Ebony Film’s “A Black Sherlock Holmes”, previously regarded as possibly the first all-black Sherlock Holmes film by four years.

Part of Sherlock Jackson Holmes is credited to Maja Raja (probably a name used by actors who didn't want their real name associated with the particular production).

Here are the plot summaries and reviews for the films. Be warned the plot description and reviews sound quite racist from today’s perspective.

“Another Tale” - (Lubin) - April 28 - “Sam Bug & Raskus Bug are suitors for Mandy Bug. Her intentions are strong for Sam, so she gives Raskus the 'cold shoulder'. Raskus Bug's blood is aroused and he loses no time in telling his troubles to his gang, the leader being no other than "Gyp the Bug." They cook up a scheme whereby they kill a silkworm which is very much against the law in Bugland. They put the silkworm in the rain barrel near Sam Bug's sweetheart's home, then they get a Bug cop and Sam Bug is arrested. Mandy knows it is the work of the gang and gets Sherlock Bug, the great detective, who gets on the trail, traps the gang by blowing up the gang's den, puts them all in jail and Sam Bug is released.”¹⁰⁷

“The Tale of a Chicken” - (Lubin) - April 28 - Sam Johnson & Raskus Hudson are suitors for the hand of Mandy Jones, but Mandy's intentions are strong towards Sam. When Mandy gives Raskus the 'cold shoulder' his negro blood is aroused. Raskus loses no time in telling his troubles to his gang. They decide to cook up a scheme whereby they steal a chicken and hide it in Sam's house. They also put some feathers in Sam's pocket. They then inform the owner of the chicken. He gets a policeman and has Sam arrested. The chicken is produced in the courtroom and the feathers are found in Sam's pocket. Sam is thrown into jail, much to the delight of Raskus and his gang. But Mandy, knowing Sam's innocence, presses into service the great detective of international fame, Sherlock Jackson Holmes. Sherlock finds a trail of chicken feathers and in the course of a couple of hours he traps the gang in their den. He marches them to the court, where they are thrown into

¹⁰⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 20 Apr. - Jun. 1914 pg. 568/570

a dungeon and Sam is then released. Sherlock receives his reward a smile from Mandy."¹⁰⁸

The reviews of these two films are not very nice, a sign of the times perhaps? Here they are:

"'Another Tale' - 'On the same reel with 'A Tale of a Chicken'. An animated cartoon of 'Bugdom'. Senseless."¹⁰⁹

"A Tale of a Chicken" - "A photoplay that should be captioned 'A Tail of a Chicken'. This is a burlesque of "Sherlock Holmes", and intended to be "cute," evidently. If the cruel abuse of a speckled hen can be construed as a comedy then this misnomer is funny. The actors are colored individuals."

1914 - "Harry's Waterloo" - Harry Benham as Sherlock Holmes. Thanhouser Film Co.



Harry Benham

Who knew Handsome Harry Benham played Sherlock Holmes more than the one time in "The Sign of Four" in 1913? According to above article from "The Film Daily" Page 7, November 24, 1930 , he also played Holmes in the 1914 Thanhouser photoplay "Harry's Waterloo", a film in which he played all nine parts!

¹⁰⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 20 Apr. - Jun. 1914 pg. 568/570

¹⁰⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 20 Apr. - Jun. 1914 pg. 968

“The Intermission”

Here are a potpourri of articles and fan letters from movie magazines of 1914 with Sherlock Holmes mentions in them.

The Photoplaywright column - Adaptions - "This seems to be the week to explain to several different inquirers that if John Johnson prints a book and copyrights it, it is his advertisement to the world that he expects to be protected from thieves and that to take John Johnson's story and try and sell it is just as much stealing as taking the eggs from under John Johnson's hens. Just as a variant, Arthur Leeds sends a letter in which an "expert" adviser tells a lady she can dramatize the Sherlock Holmes stories. Sure she can, but if she tries to sell them she will get in trouble."¹¹⁰

The Photoplaywright column - Inquiries - In response to an inquiry that would take some investigation to answer - the response given is - "The Answers Man aims to be a compendium of useful information, but has no inspirations to be a Sherlock Holmes. Your question so clearly indicates a desire to do a little detective work that we must refer you to the company."¹¹¹

Exhibitors News - Cincinnati - "A mystery of the real Sherlock Holmes sort was uncovered during the progress of the work of remodeling the old Gayety theater... missing valuables found in walls."¹¹²

“Please Take Your Seats for the Rest of the Programme”

1914 - "The Great Diamond Robbery"- Wallace Eddinger (1881 - 1929) as Dick Brummage. Playgoers Film Co.

"The Great Diamond Robbery" - Manufacturer's Advance Notes - Daniel V. Arthur Comes In - among his credits is stage production of "Sherlock Holmes. His first film will be "The Great Diamond Robbery. Arthur's first production for Playgoer's Film Company is described as such - "...'The Great Diamond Robbery' is one of the few really immortal melodramas, and universally ranked as a more thrilling and exceptional work than any of the 'Sherlock Holmes' stories. ..." ¹¹³

¹¹⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 19 Jan. - Mar. 1914 pg. 1229

¹¹¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 19 Jan. - Mar. 1914 pg. 1675

¹¹² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 22 Oct. - Dec. 1914 pg. 1549

¹¹³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 19 Jan. - Mar. 1914 pg. 1251

1914 - "A Riot in Rubeville" - Sydney De Gray (1866 - 1941) as alias Sherlock Holmes. Majestic Film Co.



Sydney De Gray

"A Riot in Rubeville" - Independent film Stories - "A 'Melodrama' company is billed for a one night stand in a tanktown in a lurid production entitled "Lizzie The Poor Working Girl." The picture of the 'heavy' in make-up, unfortunately resembles that of a horse thief and wife beater in the vicinity, for whose capture there has been a great reward offered. A village rube with Sherlock Holmes instincts, discovers the similarity, and makes his reevaluations to a few choice cronies, urging secrecy. The natural result is a town agog with excitement." What occurs from hear out is a mob scene at the show with Henry the innocent look-a-like almost hung, only to be rescued by his wife, who pulls off his fake mustache and vouches that he is not a wife-beater."¹¹⁴

1914 - "Die unheilbringende Perle" or, "The Mystery of the Fatal Pearl and the Sequel" - Actors unknown. Continental Kunstfilm GmbH (Germany).

"The Mystery of the Fatal Pearl" - Review by George Blaisdell - Is a story about two men who steal a 'holy pearl' from an idol in India, and the ensuing travels of the gem. A line used by the reviewer in the review is, "... We are deeply in doubt as to the situation of affairs --- it is one that would give occasion for the consumption of many pipefuls of real strong tobacco on the part of a most competent Sherlock Holmes." This comment refers to the ending of part one of the movie which leaves the audience guessing as to who has the stone."¹¹⁵

¹¹⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 19 Jan. - Mar. 1914 pg. 598

¹¹⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 20 Apr. - Jun. 1914 pg. 789

1914 - "Stuart Webbs: Die geheimnisvolle Villa" or "The Black Triangle"- Ernst Reicher (1885 - 1936) as Stuart Webbs. Continental Kunstfilm GmbH (Germany).

"The Black Triangle" - reviewed by W. Stephen Bush - "... it is high above the average detective story. The problem which the detective has to solve in this feature is worthy of the best efforts of Sherlock Holmes at his best. ... Webb, the detective, is a man of scientific deductions. He discovers by a microscopic test that one of the band wears a grey wig. The next moment Webb gets out his new revolver, which is loaded with ether, and calmly puts the villain under anaesthetics..."¹¹⁶

1914 - "Sherlock Bonehead"- Lloyd Hamilton (1891 - 1935) as Sherlock Bonehead (Chief of Detectives of Rottenport). Kalem Film Co.



Lloyd Hamilton

"Sherlock Bonehead" Kalem Pictures (1914) Director Marshal Neilan, began his career as a juvenile actor in William Gillette's stage play "Sherlock Holmes."¹¹⁷

¹¹⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 20 Apr. - Jun. 1914 pg. 655

¹¹⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 20 Apr. - Jun. 1914 pg. 1118

"Sherlock Bonehead" - Kalem Company Ad - A Ruth Roland - Marshal Neilan Comedy
- "The effort of this comedy detective to catch a smuggler is a scream. The chase across brings this to a rip-roaring finish."¹¹⁸

"Sherlock Bonehead" - Independent Film Stories column - "Chief of Police Ivorytop, and Chief of Detectives Sherlock Bonehead, of Rottenport, fall in love with Helen, a girl from the city. Ivorytop and Bonehead receive a visit from Bert Smith, Secret Service Agent, who informs them that \$1,000 is offered for the capture of Captain Kidd, a smuggler. Determined to secure the reward, Ivorytop and Bonehead go on the trail. The two work independently. seeing a suspicious character sneaking up the mountainside, Bonehead and Ivorytop follow. Neither suspects that their quarry is Bert in disguise. The chief and the sleuth get into a fight, during which Bert disappears. Accompanied by the entire police force, the two take up the trail again the following day. They see Bert, still in disguise, chasing another man. This individual leaps into a rowboat containing Helen and compels the girl to row the boat to the other side of the stream. Leaping into another boat, Ivorytop, Bonehead and the police force take up pursuit. Mere landlubbers, they experienced fifty-seven varieties of trouble, finally upsetting the craft. After floundering about in the stream, the officers swim to shore and get another boat. Helen rows her captor to the shore. When the man turns his back for a moment the girl strikes him on the head with the oar, rendering him unconscious. At this moment Bert runs up. Ivorytop and Bonehead arrive upon the scene in time to see Bert, who removes his disguise, snap the bracelets on the unconscious man's wrists. The rivals learn with dismay that Bert is Helen's sweetheart. But their anguish is deepened when they learn that the handcuffed individual is none other than Captain Kidd, and that the reward goes to Helen and the government detective."¹¹⁹

1914 - "The Foreign Spies" - Arthur Finn as Detective Finn. Regent Film Co.

"The Foreign Spies"... is a detective story. The hero is one of a type -- a Sherlock Holmes kind of man -- and the quarry is a trio of spies. ..."¹²⁰

1914 - "Some Hero" - Charles De Forrest, (1877 - 1944) as Sherlock Doyle. Crystal Film Co.

"Some Hero" - Independent Film Stories column - "Vivian, an heiress, is persecuted by her fiendish Uncle, who is anxious to gain possession of her wealth. She writes to Sherlock Doyle, the famous detective, asking him to protect her. Doyle goes to her mansion. The Uncle and the butler, his accomplice, decide to kidnap Vivian at once.

¹¹⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 21 Jul. - Sep. 1914 pg. 806

¹¹⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 21 Jul. - Sep. 1914 pg. 998

¹²⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 21 Jul. - Sep. 1914 pg. 1215

They take her to an underground cellar , with Doyle in pursuit. They tie her to a post and light the fuse to a bomb. Doyle is just in time to pick the sputtering bomb up and hurl it through a window. The pair then escape. Doyle later leaves the girl for a while. She is captured by some circus Indians and forced to don their costume. Doyle also disguises as an Indian and effects her complete rescue. Numerous thinning adventures overtake the fair Vivian, but Doyle arrives in the nick of time, utterly putting to rout the base conspirators. Doyle wins the heart and hand of the fair and wealthy Vivian."¹²¹

1914 - "Our Mutual Girl" - Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 - 1930) as Himself. Reliance Film Co.



Arthur Conan Doyle

"Our Mutual Girl" - Independent Film Stories column - "Raffles," the gentleman burglar - in private life, Mr. Courtland Van Dunbar went down to the gangsters' head quarters to impress them with his authority. ... he succeeded in disarming the gangsters and delivering Ada Taylor. Dunbar's eye fell on a headline in the newspaper - "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Arrives Tomorrow. Creator of Sherlock Holmes, greatest of all detective story writers on visit to New York. Aboard the Olympic." ... That same morning Dunbar went down the bay on a revenue cutter to meet the Olympic. He succeeded in gaining access to A. Conan Doyle, and, as a result of their interview, he telegraphed Mrs. Knickerbocker: "I have news that will surely bring your niece back within the week."¹²²

¹²¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 20 Apr. - Jun. 1914 pg. 1164

¹²² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 20 Apr. - Jun. 1914 pg. 1598

1914 - **"Willie Walrus, Detective"** - William Wolbert (1883 - 1918) as Willie Walrus.
Joker Film Co.



William Wolbert

"Willie Walrus, Detective" - Independent Film Stories column - "Detectin' iz the art of figgerin' out what the other fellow did from what he didn't do" This might have been the motto of "Willie Walrus, Detective," but it is not. Willie figures what the fellow didn't do from what he did do. Willie is the town constable with an office full of special formulas, special traps and special weapons for special varieties of crimes and misdemeanors. Willie is called upon to find Dolly, the missing bovine of Mr. & Mrs. Farmer Hicks. With true Hawkshaw instincts, Willie carries along a magnifying glass, his ally in the search for evidence. The glass reveals several stands of red hair. Willie sets out to find those who have or have not red hair. Finally when the embryonic Sherlock purloins a young women's 'store curls' she gives chase. He is pursued into his own trap. At the critical juncture a neighboring farmer returns to Mr. and Mrs. Hicks their missing provider of lacteal fluid. Willie escapes with a little rough handling by his victims."¹²³

¹²³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 21 Jul. - Sep. 1914 pg.116

1914 - **"Footprints"** - Al W. Filson (1857 - 1925)(possibly?) as Teever, the disciple of Sherlock Holmes. Selig Polyscope Co.

"Footprints" - Independent Film Stories column - "Paula and Robert are betrothed and Mrs. Gray gives a party in honor of her son at her country house where Paula is a guest. A big moment of this function is when Mrs. Gray shows her guests a valuable diamond necklace, which is rapturously admired by Paula. That same night the necklace disappears. This news is kept from the guests, but Robert finds a handkerchief on the floor in the room and secretly sends for Teever, the noted detective. This disciple of Sherlock Holmes finds a naked footprint upon the waxed floor, evidently made by the thief taking the diamond. In order to find the duplicate foot he cleverly suggests "a bare-foot party for the ladies." Mrs. Gray can not engage in this as she is bed-ridden for the day by rheumatism and Paula is among the missing. The detective has the imprint of all the fair feet and finds that none correspond with the copy on the floor of Madame's boudoir. Paula rushes in late to join the party, and the detective is astonished to find that her footprints correspond with those on the waxed floor. Poor Robert is heart-broken over this, but swears Teever to silence. That night he is awoken by an unusual sound; he calls Teever and tells him that a woman has left the house. They follow her in silence. It is Robert's mother in her nightgown walking in her sleep. She goes to a big garden urn and places something in it. Then Robert awakens his mother and escorts her back to the house. The detective measures the foot-print left by the dew-wet foot upon the stone walk and finds it identical with that of Paula, and the one left on the waxed floor. Both men hurry back to the urn, and there hidden among the plants is the casket containing the diamonds. There had been no thief. Mrs. Gray had concealed the diamonds there in her sleep as a somnambulist, and so Paula's wedding bells rang without a doubt or discord."¹²⁴

1914 - **"Where is She"** - M. Gregers as Sherlock Holmes. Filmfabrikken (Denmark).

1914 - **"Night of Terror"** or, **"En rædsom Nat"** - Emilie Sannom as Sherlock Holmes. Filmfabrikken (Denmark).

1914 - **"Karlchens Dreams as Sherlock Holmes"** or, **"Karlchens Traum als Sherlok Holmes"** - Actors unknown. Lloyd Films (Germany).

1914 - **"Sherlock Holmes rolled by Rigadin"** or, **"Sherlock Holmes roulé par Rigadin"** - André Simon as Sherlock Holmes. Pathé Frères (France).

¹²⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 21 Jul. - Sep. 1914 pg. 472

1914 - **"Izzy The Detective"** - Max Davidson (1875 - 1950) as Izzy. Reliance Film Co.



Max Davidson

"Izzy The Detective" - Independent Film Stories column - "Izzy, because of his own laziness, has lost his job. Misfortunes never come singularly, however, and hot upon the heels of this disaster Izzy learns that his girl has deserted him. Despite all his efforts to connect with a new position, Izzy fails to do so. He has about plumbed to the depths of despair when he reads the advertisement of a fake detective agency: "Be a Sleuth - Ten Lessons for Ten Dollars." Izzy always had a sneaking ambition to be a regular Sherlock Holmes and he at once subscribes his ten dollars. He receives his ten printed lessons together with a number of placards advertising rewards for criminals, who long since have passed to their fathers. The office boy employed by the detective agency in taking the photographs of the criminals to the printers, has lost one of them and in order to hide his own carelessness substitutes the photograph of a prominent English nobleman then visiting the city. Izzy, of course, picks out the photo of the nobleman and has the latter passes through the streets has him arrested. His false accusation enmeshes him still deeper in difficulties and poor Izzy is put in solitary confinement for insulting the representative of a foreign government. After spending some time in jail he is released and warned to get a regular job or be imprisoned again on a charge of vagrancy."¹²⁵

They could have titled this one "Be a Sleuth – 10 Lessons for 10 Guineas".

1914 - **"Gontran émule de Sherlock Holmes"** - René Gréhan as Gontran. Éclair Films (France).

¹²⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 21 Jul. - Sep. 1914 pg. 480

1914 - **"Held For Ransom"** - Actors unknown. I. S. Plaut Film Co.



Held For Ransom

"Held For Ransom" - A Four Reel I. S. P. Detective Story Release. Reviewed by R.C. McElravy. - "The producers of this film have chosen a simple, straight-forward plot and relied on ingenious and exciting incidents to furnish the proper degree of novelty. In this they have been quite successful and the four reels contain much of an entertaining nature. The daughter of Millionaire Brewster is abducted in the opening scenes and Byrnes, king of detectives, is called upon to recover her. The subsequent happenings follow in rapid-fire succession and perhaps in a little too mechanical way. But novel touches here and there keep the observer interested. The den of crooks suggested the stronghold of Prof. Moriarty in William Gillette's production of 'Sherlock Holmes', but this film offering at no time possesses the tension of the well know stage drama. The detective's impersonation of the gang leader - his capture - the pocket mirror signal - the dwarf in the mysterious bag - the message sent by a carrier pigeon - all of these devices are welcome in a yarn of this character. Such incidents often serve to hold the attention better than bald efforts at sensationalism. The crooks are finally rounded up and the girl rescued, but not until the ransom money has been obtained. The entire fourth reel is given to chase, the gang on a motor launch pursued by automobile and motorcycle. This is conventional, but becomes generally exciting in certain aspects. One thriller consists of a fall from a high bridge by one of the crooks, when the detective cuts the rope. Then comes the crowning sensation, in which the sleuth is seen climbing up Eiffel tower after the gang leader. The latter makes some perilous swings across the heavy framework and is last seen falling from the top of the immense structure - a dummy, of course, being providentially substituted in this instance. For a story lacking any originality of plot this works out in an entertaining manner. It is not a gripping production, except perhaps in the final scenes, but the incidents are fresh and pleasing. The photography is generally clear."¹²⁶

¹²⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 21 Jul. - Sep. 1914 pg. 581

1914 - "**The \$5,000,000 Counterfeiting Plot**" - William J. Burns (1861 - 1932) as himself, and Arthur Conan Doyle as himself. Dramascope Film Co.



William J. Burns

"The \$5,000,000 Counterfeiting Plot" - Feature Film Stories column - Six Parts - "A very long (and highly embellished) plot description of Wm. J. Burns most celebrated Secret Service case - the Philadelphia-Lancaster Counterfeiting Case - finishes with this line; "The final scene shows some specially posed pictures of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, with Mr. Burns."¹²⁷

William J. Burns, known as "America's Sherlock Holmes," is famous for having conducted a private investigation clearing Leo Frank of the murder of Mary Phagan, and for serving as the director of the B.O.I., predecessor to the F.B.I.¹²⁸



William J. Burns

¹²⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 21 Jul. - Sep. 1914 pg. 1830

¹²⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_J._Burns

"The \$5,000,000 Counterfeiting Plot" - A member of a counterfeiting gang gives a forged note to his daughter. When she spends it on a dress the note ends up in the hands of the secret service, who then bring the entire gang to justice. For the second time in 1914, we see Arthur Conan Doyle play himself in a minor movie role.

1914 - "The Seventh Prelude" - Richard Travers (1885 - 1935) as Jack Gordon. Essanay Film Co.



Richard Travers

"The Seventh Prelude" - Licensed Special column - "This two-part photoplay, written by Lillian Bennet-Thompson, is an unusually interesting detective story, but reminds one somewhat of Sherlock Holmes and his pal, Dr. Watson. A wealthy man is shot while playing Chopin's 'Seventh Prelude' and it keeps one guessing as to who fired the shot. A detective examines the Warren mansion and after a desperate struggle, captures the culprit. It holds the attention of the audience all through."¹²⁹

1914 - "Più forte che Sherlock Holmes II" or, "Stronger Than Sherlock Holmes II" - Domenico Gambino as Salterelli. Itala Film Co. (Italy).

¹²⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 21 Jul. - Sep. 1914 pg. 960

1914 - "**Shorty and Sherlock Holmes**" - Shorty Hamilton (1879 - 1925) as Shorty. Broncho Film Co.



Shorty Hamilton

"Shorty and Sherlock Holmes" - Independent Film Stories - "Shorty, who has been reading 'The Sign of the Four,' is much taken up with the idea of becoming a detective. He thinks it a great idea, and going out to the stable pulls enough hair from a horse's tail to make himself a beard; this he dons together with a 'sleuth hat', and getting himself a large microscope, defies the world to conceal a thing from him. He trails everybody in camp, and spies upon them so much that he becomes a pest and they frame up a 'jool' robbery. Norah, the cook, pretends to have lost her diamond pin, and Shorty undertakes to find it for her. That same night the village post office is robbed, and Shorty who is hunting for the diamond pin happens upon the robbers, who are burying their loot. They overpower Shorty and binding his hands and feet, make him their prisoner. While they are reconnoitering, Shorty burns the ropes off his hands with his trusty microscope. When he hears the robbers returning he throws himself back onto the sand, and gives the appearance of still being bound. While the robbers have their backs turned he covers them with his pistol. He shoots one robber and marches the other before him to the village sheriff, the robber carrying the mail pouch containing the loot. Ella, the village post mistress, who has been taken into custody pending an investigation, is released when Shorty appears with the real robber."¹³⁰

"Shorty and Sherlock Holmes" - Comments on the Films - "Imitations of Sherlock Holmes are becoming very numerous, but Shorty Hamilton manages to get some fun out of it in this two reel number. The cowboys fake a robbery and in trying to trace this down Shorty discovers some real bandits and gets their loot, thus becoming the town hero. The photography is good and the story runs along in an entertaining manner. It makes altogether a better ranch comedy than the average."¹³¹

¹³⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 22 Oct.. - Dec. 1914 pg. 404

¹³¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 22 Oct. - Dec. 1914 pg. 493

1914 - "The Amateur Detective" - Ernest C. Warde (1874 - 1923) as Pat. Thanhouser Film Co.



Ernest C. Warde

"The Amateur Detective" - Independent Film Stories - "Jane and Pat, her policeman admirer, whom she has taught to believe himself a second Sherlock Holmes, think they have discovered a Black Hand plot against Mr. Wise, Jane's employer. In reality the mysterious signs they have seen on the back fence are Jack's secret language to Betty, his sweetheart, who father Wise considers too young to have a beaux. Betty and Jack find out that Jane has mistaken their innocent hieroglyphics for Black Hand signals, so they scheme to get father worried, to have Jack masquerade as a detective, sub do a bogus blackhead gang, and then, throwing off his disguise, claim Betty as his reward. Pat precipitates matters, however, by arresting the young hero prematurely. Jack is obligated to unmask. But Mr. Wise, seeing the joke, gives Betty to Jack."¹³²

For those who have noticed that a good number of these films involve The Black Hand, I invite you to check out this little ditty of a silent film titled, 'The Black Hand (1906) - World's 1st Mafia Movie - Wallace McCutcheon' at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWRq2EHHFOY>

¹³² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 22 Oct. - Dec. 1914 pg. 1586

1914 - "The Sherlock Boob" - Robert Z. Leonard (1889 - 1968) as Sherlock Boob. Rex Film Co.



Robert Z. Leonard

“The Sherlock Boob” - “Another picture featuring Robert Leonard and Hazel Buckman. The boob detective isn’t such a boob after all. He runs down two swindlers, with the aid of a reporter, who turns out to be the Chief of Detectives and the Mayor, making a pleasure comedy drama”¹³³

1914 - “Sherlock Holmes vs. Dr. Mors” or, “Sherlock Holmes contra Dr. Mors”- Ferdinand Bonn as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).



Ferdinand Bonn

¹³³ “Motion Picture News” Vol. 9 - June 1914 - Pg. 68

Then finally from Germany we have the first two films from what will be a series of seven related stories known as “Der Hund von Baskerville” series.
There is no Dr. Watson in this series.

1914 - “Der Hund von Baskerville I or- Das einsame Haus” or, “The Lonely House”- Alwin Neuss as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).



Alwin Neuss

1914 - “Der Hund von Baskerville II”- Alwin Neuss as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

1914 gave us the first two films from the series of seven related stories known as “Der Hund von Baskerville” series. 1915 would give us three through six, and 1916 the seventh and final of the series. There is no Dr. Watson in this series. Due to the numerous different language names for foreign films I will go with the English titles from now on to simplify things a bit.

1915 - “How the Hound of the Baskervilles Returned”- Alwin Neuss as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

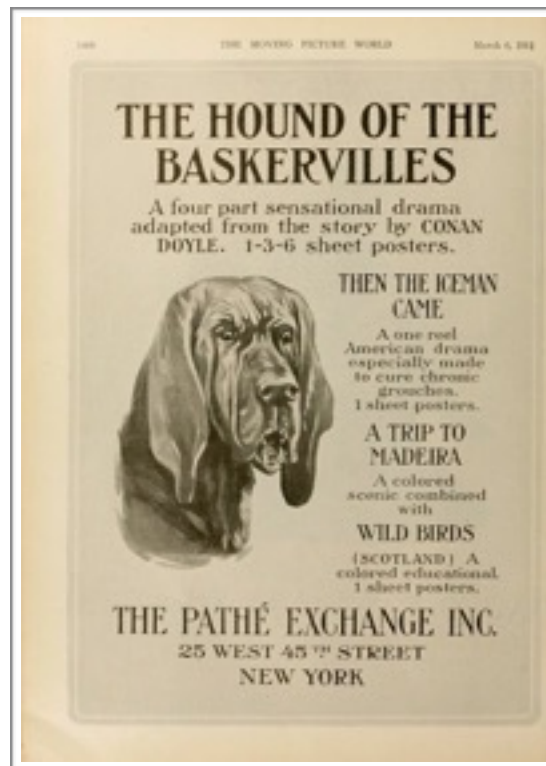
1915 - “The Uncanny Room”- Alwin Neuss as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

1915 - “The Dark Castle”- Eugen Berg as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

1915 - “Dr. MacDonald’s Sanitarium”- Erich Kaiser-Titz as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

1916 - “The House Without Any Windows”- Erich Kaiser-Titz as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

Here are the comments and an ad I've found for some of this series.



The Hound of the Baskervilles

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" - Film Version of Sir A. Conan Doyle's Novel made by Pathe Freres Has Interesting Side. Reviewed by M. I. MacDonald

"It would be impossible to base a film production on any of the sensational works of the novelist A. Conan Doyle, without it being in some measure entertaining; nor can the excitement prevalent in the adventures of the detective Sherlock Holmes fail to thrill the average human being to the very marrow of his bones. In choosing "The Hound of the Baskervilles" Pathe Freres can have made no mistake, for even though the film version of the story may once in a while miss a cog, or so far presume upon the author's rights as to interpolate a scene or situation of which the original story is not guilty, the production has evidently been robbed of very little if any of its weirdly thinning characteristics. The filming of the story on the continent, presumably in Germany, interferes to some extent with the English atmosphere intended to be portrayed. This is perhaps as noticeable in the mannerisms of some of the players as in any other way. According to the film story Sir Henry Baskerville, upon the death of his uncle, whose estate he inherits, comes to Baskerville and falls a prey to the intrigues of Stapleton the caretaker of Baskerville and who, it later divulges, is the disgraced nephew of the deceased Sir Charles Baskerville

seeking to gain possession of the estate. He it is who keeps the Great Dane in concealment, rumors of which have terrified the neighborhood; and he it is that intercepts the letter of Sir Henry to Sherlock Holmes, impersonating the famous detective himself. Later, however, the real Sherlock Holmes appears on the scene, and the events which occur when the great detective commences his investigation of Baskerville and its surroundings are as sensationally interesting as anyone would care to see. There is a marked similarity between the men playing Stapleton and Sherlock Holmes; the difference between them is just enough to explode the idea one man may be doubling on the parts. The production is an acceptable one, and where a spectator is unfamiliar with the story we cannot conceive that there could be any adverse criticism."¹³⁴

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" - Feature Film Stories - "A drama adopted from the novel of the famous author, Sir A. Conan Doyle - Four parts; All who have read the celebrated novel remember the Great Dane that terrified the superstitious community surrounding the home of the Earl of Baskerville. The death of Sir Charles of Baskerville was connected by the tenantry with the reported appearance of the dreaded hound. Subsequent to the Earl's death, his nephew, Henry, fell heir to the estate. He was notified by the attorney to come to Baskerville but received a warning from another source to remain away. Despite the warning, Sir Henry goes to the manor, where he meets Mr. Stapleton, the caretaker. He also learns of his Uncle's animosity against Roger, another nephew who was disinherited. Following his coming, Sir Henry soon has cause to fear the hound. He sends an urgent call to Sherlock Holmes, a great detective. The call is intercepted by Stapleton, who impersonates Holmes. The real Holmes learns of the interloper and goes to Baskerville to investigate. A series of remarkable and terrifying events follow, which almost result in the death of Holmes as well as the Earl and the entire household. Even Miss Lyons, Sir Henry's charming neighbor, nearly becomes a victim of the evil genius who is plotting the ruin of Baskerville. After a harrowing experience, the detective succeeds in killing the monstrous hound. Holmes doubles his efforts to unravel the dreadful mystery and enlists the aid of Barrymore, a discharged servant. Barrymore informs Holmes that Stapleton is the author of all the devilry. The detective lays a trap for Stapleton, who unwittingly falls into it. After a terrific struggle he is overcome by Holmes and Barrymore. Not until his confessions it is discovered that Stapleton is in reality the disgraced nephew, Roger, who for revenge, planned the destruction of Sir Henry in a desperate endeavor to gain control of the Baskerville estate."¹³⁵

"The Isolated House" - Stories of the Films - "Under the assumed name of Stapleton, Roger Baskerville is condemned to death for being instrumental in the death of a relative and probable heir to the Baskerville estates. After his plea of clemency is denied, he overpowers his keeper and escapes, taking up residence near Baskerville Castle, and

¹³⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 23 Jan. - Mar. 1915 pg. 1302

¹³⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 23 Jan. - Mar. 1915 pg. 1526

announcing himself to Lord and Lady Baskerville as Loris Collamore, a new neighbor. The next day he succeeds in inveigling them into a submersible house which he has built in a nearby lake, and making them prisoners. He then goes to the castle and announces to the servants that he is a relative of Lord Henry and has come to take charge of his affairs. The servants become suspicious of the intruder, and, being mystified at the strange disappearance of their master and mistress, seek the aid of Sherlock Holmes, who had been mainly instrumental in ensuring the conviction of Roger. The greg detective takes up the case and in the course of his investigations is locked in a secret closet in the castle by the criminal, who has recognized him. Armed with a pocket wireless outfit, Holmes calls an assistant and is quickly released. Later, Holmes and his assistant, see the submersible house and manager to get inside, where they learn that the Baskervilles are prisoners. When Roger sees that his nefarious scheme has been frustrated, he breaks the windows, thus allowing the water to enter, but in the struggle which follows Holmes reaches the raising mechanism and the house slowly rises out of the lake. The prisoners are freed and Roger is captured. But as they leave the house he breaks away from Holmes and again enters his stronghold, sinking the house and disappearing from sight. A terrific explosion tells those on the shore that the villain has used one of the bombs, that he had hidden within, thus ending his career of crime."¹³⁶

1915 - "Sherlock, The Boob Detective"- Frank Moore (1880 - 1924) as the Boob. Crown City Films.

"Sherlock, The Boob Detective" - Feature Film Stories - "Fred and Rena, society crooks, complete a successful foray and steal the cash and valuables from a fee lunch stand in one of the city parks. Their theft arouses the entire town, and as a result, the Boob determines to become a detective and hunt down the daring criminals. Accordingly, he purchases a manual which gives instructions in the art of detecting and sets out upon the case. His first clue leads to the arrest of a burro. Meantime Fred and Rena have carried away the safe of the National Bank. The Boob runs across them but they turn the tables on him, making him a captive and tie him to the safe with a stick of dynamite underneath. The safe blows up. Fred and Rena rush to examine its contents, but the blast has only freed the Boob and he makes them prisoners, just as the city detective arrives and takes them in charge."¹³⁷

¹³⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 24 Apr. - Jun. 1915 pg. 904

¹³⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 24 Apr. - Jun. 1915 pgs. 1204/1206

1915 - "Heavy Villains"- Flora Finch (1867 - 1940) played a female Sherlock Holmes, know as Serena Slim - the slender sleuth. Vitagraph Films.



Flora Finch

"Flora Finch as a female Sherlock Holmes; Hughie Black as the village cut-up; Kate Prince as a cook; and John T. Kelly as a woman hater; are members of a cast in which Cissy Friz-Gerald, Charles Brown, William Shea, Arthur Cozine and Ethyl Corcoran play straight parts, in a paradoxically entitled comedy "Heavy Villains.""¹³⁸

1915 - "Tillie's Tomato Surprise" - Tom McNaughton (1867 - 1923) as Percy Jitney, the New York Sherlock Holmes. Lubin Films.

"Tillie's Tomato Surprise" - (Lubin) - "... 'Your name is Colin Campbell?' queried the New York Sherlock Holmes. 'Y-y-yes, sir,' said the trembling Campbell, not knowing what was coming next, although his conscience was absolutely clear. 'You are Scotch?' asked the detective, and in the face of his Scottish accent Campbell could not say nay. 'That is all' said the detective. 'I want you for bigamy,' and it took Campbell a full hour to convince the detective he was not the Colin Campbell who was wanted for deceiving two trusting, unsophisticated, and, of course, beautiful maidens."¹³⁹

¹³⁸ The Photo-Play Review Page 14 April 6, 1915

¹³⁹ The Photo-Play Review Page 12 August 7, 1915

1915 - "The Missing Ruby" - Bessie Eyton (1890 - 1965) played Bessie Blake, a female Sherlock Holmes. Selig Films.



Bessie Eyton

"The Missing Ruby" - Comments on the Films - Another lady detective drama -- without the crooks. Nevertheless, a ver valuable Ruby disappears from a jewel case belonging to a young heiress, and a female Sherlock Holmes is called to solve the mystery. This she does, with neatness and dispatch. Bessie Eyton, as the detective, continued to look like a lady, even in her maid's costume."¹⁴⁰

1915 - "The Gentleman Burglar" - Lillian Marshall, as Irma Horne, Girl Detective. Selig Films.

"The Gentleman Burglar" - Stories of the Films - "Jim Drapper, society leader, reads in the paper of the robberies perpetrated, by Broadway Jim, a gentleman burglar. He jokingly tells his father that he would like to be a Sherlock Holmes and bring Broadway Jim to justice." In what ensues Irma Horne, a clever girl detective, is also on the trail of Broadway Jim. She is suspicious of Jim Drapper. Meanwhile Broadway Jim, noticing his resemblance to Jim Drapper, jumps Jim Drapper and steals his invitation to a society affair, which Irma in disguise is on guard at. When Broadway Jim, who she thinks is Jim Drapper makes his move she makes her move and captures him, only to have Jim Drapper show up and totally confuse her."¹⁴¹

¹⁴⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 23 Jan. - Mar. 1915 pg. 1763

¹⁴¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 25 Jul. - Sep. 1915 pg. 447

1915 - "Ham, The Detective" - Lloyd V. Hamilton (1891 - 1935) as Ham, the modern Sherlock, and Bud Duncan (1883 - 1960) as Bud, a pocket edition Watson. Kalem Films.



Lloyd V. Hamilton

"Ham, The Detective" - "Sherlock Holmes burlesque which ends up with Ham & Bud and the criminals all ending up arrested."¹⁴²

"Ham, The Detective" - Comments on the Films - "If one swallow does not make a summer, neither does one pair of false whiskers make a detective. This is proved conclusively, in the present 'Ham' comedy. Other secrets of Sherlock Holmes' profession are amusingly unmasked while Ham and Bud attempt to run down a gang of Black Hands."¹⁴³

1915 - "Sherlock Sammy" - Harry Fisher, Jr. as Sherlock Sammy. Kriterion Films.

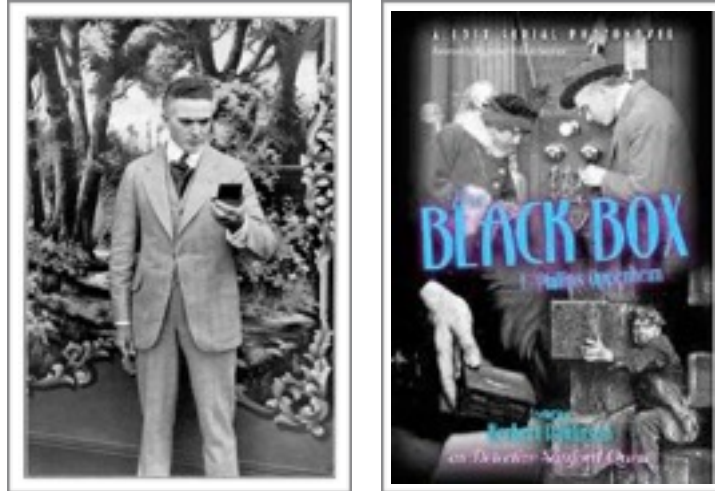
"Sherlock Sammy" - "Director Jack Byrne and his company have just completed for The Santa Barbara Motion Picture Company, releasing on the Kriterion Program, a number of new comedies and dramas. Harry Fisher, Jr., is featured in a comedy, entitled "Sherlock Sammy".¹⁴⁴

¹⁴² The Photo-Play Review Page 11/13 May 11, 1915

¹⁴³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 24 Apr. - Jun. 1915 pg. 1776

¹⁴⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 23 Jan. - Mar. 1915 pg. 1914

1915 - **"The Black Box"** - Herbert Rawlinson (1885 - 1953) as Sanford Quest, a Criminologist, a modernized Sherlock Holmes. Universal Films.



Herbert Rawlinson

"The Black Box" Ready for Release. Serial (15 installments each of two reels) - "... The principal character is Sanford Quest, a Criminologist, a modernized Sherlock Holmes. But where this famous character detected crime and apprehended criminals by the force of his observations and logic alone, this new creation....is far better equipped as far as moving pictures are concerned. Deduction and logic are difficult to represent on the screen. Sanford Quest brings to his aid all the modern and ultra modern inventions of science. By an invention of his own he is able to see over the telephone wire the person who is talking to him. He has ... the pocket wireless telephone... a compact and powerful explosive...and a hundred other contrivances Sanford Quest is a detective deluxe."¹⁴⁵ Eat your heart out Benedict Cumberbatch, Sanford Quest had a cell phone before you did!

1915 - **"The Road o' Strife"** - Lupin Films.

"The Road o' Strife" - Reviews of Current Productions - serial part 6 - reviewer comments "...In the sixth installment the spectator feels as if he were in the middle of a Sherlock Holmes story, thoroughly absorbed and intensely curious to see how it will end. It is said that President Wilson beguiles the cares of state by reading just that kind of detective story...."¹⁴⁶

¹⁴⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 23 Jan. - Mar. 1915 pg. 1776

¹⁴⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 24 Apr. - Jun. 1915 pg. 1443

1915 - **"Ima Simp - Detective"** - Ben Deeley (1878 - 1924) as Ima Simp. Balboa Films.



Ben Deeley

"Ima Simp - Detective" - Stories of the Films - "Slim Jim, a slippery-fingered crook, seeking a chance to make a good haul, takes advantage of the opportunity, robs a house and makes his getaway. At the same time the daughter of the victim decides to elope and joins her fiancée by means of the ladder-route. The eloping couple hire a buggy and hasten away to escape her father. They are seen by Ima Simp, almost a detective, who mistakes them for Slim Jim and his female accomplice. Ima Simp decides to do some sleuthing that will make Sherlock Holmes seem like a back-number and immediately gets on the trail. The chase that follows is a hummer and is funny enough to make the Sphinx laugh. Does Simp catch the fugitives? Sure he does, but at that moment the girl's father appears on the scene and thanks the young man for eloping with his daughter, thus taking her off his hands. Poor Simp then realizes that as a detective he's a lemon."¹⁴⁷

An actor named Hector Dion (1881 - 19??) would show up in two Thanhouser Sherlock Holmes films in 1915.

1915 - **"The Crimson Sabre"** - Hector Dion as Sherlock Holmes. Thanhouser Films.

1915 - **"The Crogmere Ruby"** - Hector Dion as Sherlock Holmes. Thanhouser Films.

"The Crogmere Ruby" - Stories of the Films - "The Crogmere was stolen from the country house of its owner in England. Certain clues convinced the Scotland Yard authorities that the criminal would try to escape on a certain liner. The New York Police received word that the Crogmere had been stolen and was supposed to be on a certain liner, with the further information that "Inspector Bolton of Scotland Yard was on the boat." The liner has only been out one day when the first-class passengers knew they had a Scotland Yard detective in their midsts. The wireless operator gave further information by showing a maid-servant, in who he was interested, a wireless addressed to the supposed

¹⁴⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 24 Apr. - Jun. 1915 pg. 306

Sherlock Holmes and signed only with the letters "S.Y." It was noticed that "Sherlock Holmes" paid much attention to a young lady and young man. When the vessel arrived in New York a police captain and several men boarded the boat to aid Inspector Bolton. "Sherlock Holmes" told the captain that the young Lothario was the criminal and the man was promptly taken into custody. His stateroom was searched and the ruby was found hidden away in a large cake of soap. The officers were escorting their prisoner away in triumph when the young woman in the case interfered. She induced the police captain to let her look at the ruby and promptly declared it was simply glass. Closer scrutiny convinced the official that she was right. He was doubtful what further course to pursue, when the young pointed to the pipe of Sherlock Holmes and whispered to the Captain, "It's the first day since we left the other side that his pipe has not been lit." She then reached over, grabbed the pipe before Sherlock could interfere, emptied its contents in her hand and revealed the ruby which had been hidden under a thin layer of tobacco. The bogus detective tried to flee, but was promptly captured. Finding that the game was up, he made a full confession, admitting that he had stolen the gem. He said he knew the police would be on the alert so he had tried to escape a personal search, pretending to be an inspector from Scotland Yard, and had planted the bogus ruby in the young man's possession expecting that he would be locked up, giving the real criminal a chance to escape. It was later revealed that the young girl was Inspector Bolton of Scotland Yard and had been watching the pseudo detective all the way across the Atlantic."¹⁴⁸



Hector Dion

1915 - "No Smoking" - Jessie Terry as Aunt Julia. Lubin Films.

"No Smoking" - Stories of Films - "...Aunt Julia, with her 'Sherlock eye', finds a stray bundle of ashes lying about, and to her questions Wilkins explains that it is naught but tooth powder,"¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 25 Jul. - Sep. 1915 pg. 1204

¹⁴⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 26 Oct. - Dec. 1915 pg. 2233

1915 - "The Midnight Prowlers" - Walter Stull (1879 - 1961) as Loos Pokes and Ethel Burton as female Sherlock Holmes. Vim Films.



Walter Stull and Ethel Burton

"The Midnight Prowlers" - Stories of the Films - Summation - Mr. & Mrs. Jabbs are nervous about the neighborhood and each independently decide to hire a detective. "...Mrs. Jabb hiring a male sleuth in the person of Loos Pokes and Mr. Jabbs hiring a female Sherlock Holmes." The detectives end up meeting and spooning while the house is being burglarized. When a bugler stumbles and makes noise, the detectives and the Jabbs rush in only to have each detective grab the Jabb they didn't know.¹⁵⁰

1915 - "The Alster Case" - John Cossar (1858 - 1935) as Trask, the Sherlock Holmes of the story. Essanay Films.



John Cossar

"The Alster Case" - Reviews of Current Productions - "Trask, the Sherlock Holmes of the story, is seen following up every clue that gives promise of leading to the guilt or innocence of each of the five suspects. He weaves a web around each turn which points to guilt, but in every save one the investigation shows innocence."¹⁵¹

¹⁵⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 26 Oct. - Dec. 1915 pg. 1018/1019

¹⁵¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 26 Oct. - Dec. 1915 pg. 1845

1915 - **"A Case of Limburger"** - Actors unknown. Mina Films.



A Case of Limburger

"A Case of Limburger" - Stories of the Films - "Keen Hawksby, the head of the police, fancies himself a detective genius on the lines of Mons Lecoq or Sherlock Holmes -- in short, he is regarded by himself and his fellow townsmen as a Napoleon in the world of detection ... " The plot in short Hawksby and his two admirers thinking they are on the trail of a bomber follow a farmer delivering a case of limburger cheese to his aunt, and they grab the wrong man until the aunt rescues the farmer from them in time to enjoy a supper of limburger, bread and ale."¹⁵² This film title rivals 1910's "A Jar of Cranberry Sauce" for the best title prize!

1915 - **"A Scream in the Night"** or, **"Ein Schrei in der Nacht"** - Alwin Neuss as Sherlock Holmes and Edward Seefelu as Dr. Watson. Dekla Films (Germany).

"A Scream in the Night" - German Trade Notes column - "The premier offering of the Dekla film, 'A Scream in the Night', took place in the elegant Marmorhaus Lichtspiele on the Kurfurstendamm. The film, A Sherlock Holmes drama, was written by Paul Rosenhayn, and arranged by Alwin Neuss, who has won great popularity through his numerous interpretations of the world-famed English detective, chief among which as Holmes in 'The Hound of the Baskerville.' In addition to directing the production of this interesting picture, Mr. Neuss played with much success the difficult part of Sherlock Holmes. Mr. Neuss, who was formerly engaged in London where he played dramatic parts in the Colosseum, Palace, and Empire theaters, is admirably fitted for the Holmes role. Contrary to a recent American criticism of the European depiction of the famous detective, this Sherlock Holmes neglected appearing at a soiree in his checkered cap and with the inevitable pipe in mouth. Mr. Neuss is a great admirer of the American picture and is one of the German actors and directors who believe that much may be learned from the American films. That Mr. Neuss has made a careful study of American films is plainly evident in 'A Scream in the Night.' The action of the play is supposed to be in America. Although Mr. Neuss has never been in America, he produced a picture which is

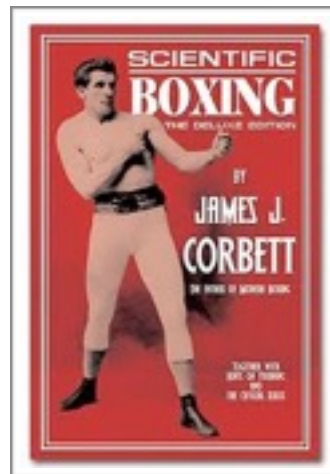
¹⁵² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 25 Jul. - Sep. 1915 pg. 1204

one of the few German films of this kind which have not been over-Americanized. The director who is a great admirer of the American simplicity and naturalness in film acting instilled into his cast much of this spirit and has thereby produced a work which pass muster even in America. The music to the film was arranged by Mr. Seigbert Goldschmidt, manager of the Marmorhaus, and helped greatly towards the success of the picture”¹⁵³

1915 - "The Burglar and The Lady" - Calvin Reisland (1886 - 1974) as Stone/ Sherlock Holmes and World Heavyweight Champion ‘Gentleman Jim’ Corbett (1866 - 1933) as Raffles . Sun Photoplay Co..



Calvin Reisland



‘Gentleman Jim’ Corbett

"The Burglar and The Lady" - Reviews of Current Productions - Stars Heavyweight Champion James J. Corbett as Raffles. ..." The author is careful to make his law-breaking hero a sympathetic figure. He is a courteous, kiddy and wonderfully resourceful person, whose wits are pitted against the most astute detective of the age. This time he is called Stone instead of Sherlock Holmes. ..." ¹⁵⁴

A few notes of interest on actors in “The Burglar and The Lady”. James J. Corbett once portrayed Sherlock Holmes in a burlesque show, “Round New York in Eighty Minutes”, in a comedic skit entitled ‘The Remarkable Pipe Dream of Mr. Sherlock Holmes’. Fraunie Fraunholz, Burstup Holmes, played the Butler.

¹⁵³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 27 Jan. - Mar. 1916 pg. 434

¹⁵⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 26 Oct. - Dec. 1915 pg. 2198

Alwin Neuss played Holmes on numerous occasions. We may finally add what is thought to be a Holmes film:

1915 - “William Voss Milliondieb” or, “William Voss the Thief of Millions” - Alwin Neuss as Sherlock Holmes and Theodore Burgardt as William Voss. Meinhart Films (Germany).

At the very end of 1914 comedic actor Fred Evans began a long series of films featuring the character ‘Pimple’. In 1915 Sherlock Pimple appeared in some of them.

1915 - “Pimple’s Case of Johnny Walker” - Fred Evans (1889 - 1951) as Sherlock Pimple.

According to Davies, "one of the prolific Pimple films which featured a like able buffoon in various humorous situations . . . Fred Evans appeared in the film as Sherlock Pimple . . . during the war years."¹⁵⁵

Sherlock Pimple chases whiskey thieves, according to Haydock.¹⁵⁶

1915 - "Pimple's Million Dollar Mystery" released in the U.S. as **"Flivver's Famous Cheese Hound"** - Fred Evans (1889 - 1951) as Sherlock Pimple.



Fred Evans

Sherlock Pimple tracks down bank robbers.

1915 - "Pimple's Boy Scout" - Fred Evans (1889 - 1951) as Sherlock Pimple. Sherlock Pimple disguises himself as a Boy Scout to bring kidnappers to justice.

¹⁵⁵ David Stuart Davies HOLMES OF THE MOVIES, 1976, p. 22

¹⁵⁶ Ron Haydock (DEERSTALKER!, 1978, p. 35, 37)

1915 - "A Study in Skarlit" - Fred Evans (1889 - 1951) as Sherlokz Homz. Pioneer Film Co. (U.K.).



Fred Evans

A British film, made by Comedy Combine-Sunny South and distributed by Pioneer. Cast and credits: Fred Evans (Sherlokz Homz), Will Evans (Prof. Moratorium); Fred Evans and Will Evans (directors and scenario). Length: 2,000 feet.

1915 - "Der Floh von Baskerville" or, "The Flea of the Baskervilles" - Actors unknown. Luna Films (Germany).

1915 - "Kri Kri contro Sherlock Holmes" or, "Bloomer Tricks Sherlock Holmes" (U.K.) - Raymond "Dandy" Frau . Società Italiana Cines (Italy).

Raymond "Dandy" Frau (Raymond François Émile Marie Pierre Frau) a Frenchman who often played the character of a patachon, someone always on the road, being deemed to lead a disorderly life and drink a lot. He is known to have played that part in a couple of Sherlock Holmes parodies, "Bloomer Tricks Sherlock Holmes" and "The Defeat of Sherlock Holmes" for Società Italiana Cines of Italy.

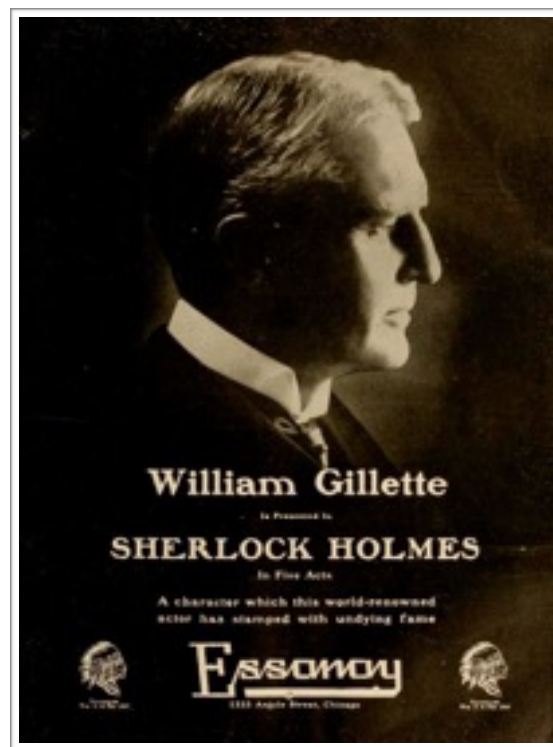


Raymond "Dandy" Frau

1915 - "La disfatta di Sherlock Holmes" or, "The Defeat of Sherlock Holmes" (U.K.) - Raymond "Dandy" Frau. Società Italiana Cines (Italy).

The film may have been thought at one time to be forever lost**, but the actor William Gillette will never be forgotten. Yes the year was 1916, and the great William Gillette, the stage actor who had brought the role of Sherlock Holmes to life, had recently joined the ranks at Essanay Studios at age 63! We can't bring the film back, but in this section of this series of essays I will give you reviews, plot summaries, ads, and photos (all that I can find) to attempt to give you a taste of what it must have been like to see the most famous Sherlock Holmes of his time in film. Oh, and by the way, we will give you the rest of Sherlock Holmes in silent films for the year 1916 too! This includes H. A. Sainsbury in "The Valley of Fear", and Douglas Fairbanks in "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish", a Holmes you will have to see to believe.

1916 - "Sherlock Holmes" - William Gillette (1853 - 1937) as Sherlock Holmes and Edward Fielding (1875 - 1945) as Dr. Watson. Essanay Film Co.



William Gillette

Chicago News Letter - "Essanay has signed William Gillette to appear in his well known plays, 'Sherlock Holmes' and 'Secret Service.' Mr. Gillette will begin work on the first of these in the near future."¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 27 Jan. - Mar. 1916 pg.1477

Gillette in Essanay Production - "Famous Author-Manager-Player Will be Seen in 'Secret Service' and 'Sherlock Holmes.' 'Secret Service' and 'Sherlock Holmes' will be produced by Essanay with William Gillette, and released as a multiple reel feature on the V-L-S-E program. This star, acknowledged one of the greatest actors of the American stage, has contracted to appear in the photoplay versions of his phenomenal stage successes. He has just begun work before the camera for 'Sherlock Holmes,' which will be the first release. 'Secret Service' will follow shortly after. Mr. Gillette has just closed an unusually successful season and went to Essanay immediately after his last performance. He has never before consented to adapt to pictures the plays which he wrote and made famous in playing the leading roles. The popularity awaiting picturization of these two gripping dramas has been recognized by producers for some time, but reportedly Mr. Gillette has rejected all offers until he agreed to play for Essanay. William Gillette has had a stage career rivaled by few actors of all time. He was born in Hartford, Conn., July 24, 1855, the son of Francis Gillette, long a United States Senator from Connecticut. Following graduation from a preparatory school young Gillette choose the stage as his profession and played in stock companies while completing his education with special courses at The University of New York, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University. In 1877 he undertook theatrical work exclusively and played with stock companies successively at New Orleans, New York, Boston, Cincinnati, and Louisville. By this time he had won national recognition and decided to attempt the staging of several plays which he had written for himself. This he did with encouraging success, and since he has written everything in which he has appeared. 'Sherlock Holmes' added to his fame and later 'Secret Service' upheld the reputation he had won. Mr. Gillette is ideally suited to an active drama of tense situations, and the screen undoubtably will add to his laurels. Mr. Gillette is a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters."¹⁵⁸

Notes on the Trade column - "Ernest Maupain takes one of the principal parts in 'Sherlock Holmes,' supporting William Gillette. As the leader of the London crooks, this Essanay heavy actor has a part which he enjoys and which gives him every opportunity to display his ability. Mr. Maupain is throughly conversant with the part, having played it before on the stage in Paris."¹⁵⁹

V-S-L-E Special Features - ..."The next big special production is the Essanay film version of 'Sherlock Holmes,' in seven reels, with William Gillette in the part he has invested with world-wide success on the stage. It is scheduled for release, May 15th."¹⁶⁰...

"Sherlock Holmes" - (Essanay) - (Seven Parts, May 15) - Stories of the Films
The Cast: Sherlock Holmes (William Gillette); Alice Faulkner (Marjorie Kay); Professor Moriarty, Emperor of Crooks (Ernest Maupain); Dr. Watson (Edward Fielding); Benjamin

¹⁵⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 27 Jan. - Mar. 1916 pg. 1656

¹⁵⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 28 Apr. - Jun. 1916 pg. 655

¹⁶⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 28 Apr. - Jun. 1916 pg. 962

Forman (Stewart Robbins); Sir Edward Leighton (Hugh Thompson); Baron von Stalburg (Ludwig Kriess); James Larrabee (Mario Majeroni); Sidney Prince (William Postance); Cragin (Chester Beery); Tim Leary (Frank Hamilton); "Lightfoot" McTeague (Fred Malatesta); Parsons (Norrie); Madge Larrabee (Grace Reals); Therese, a Maid (Miss Ball); "Billy" (Burford Hampton); A "Suffraget" (Marion Skinner); directed by Arthur Bertelet.

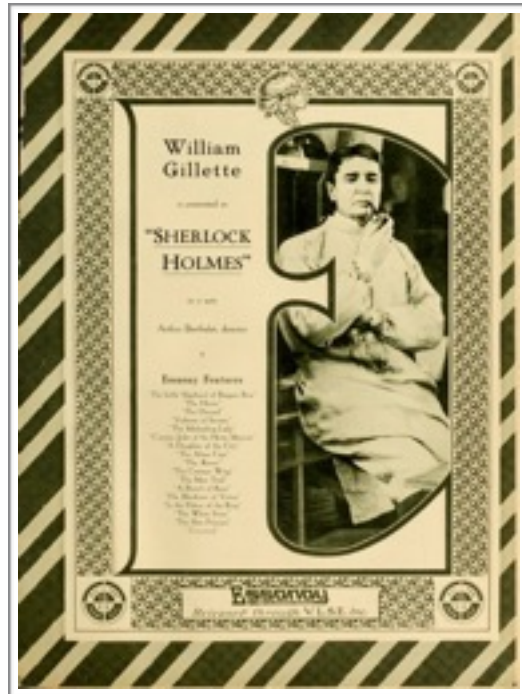
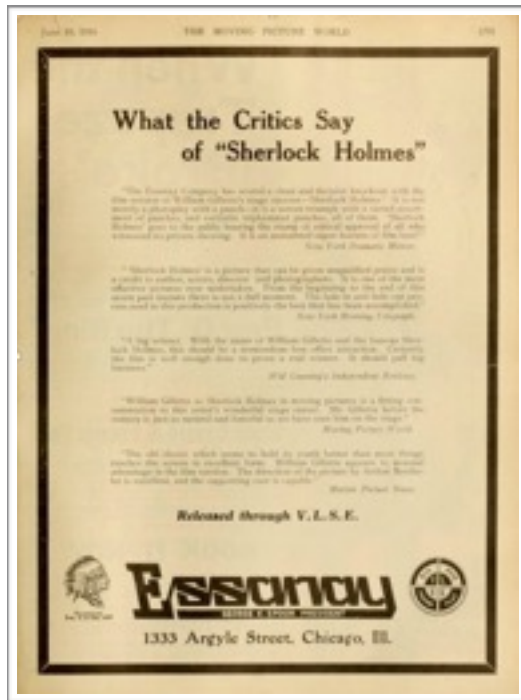


Essanay Full Page Magazine Ads

"Sherlock Holmes while out for a stroll with Dr. Watson, meets a beautiful woman. They are mutually attracted, but pass without recognition. Later Holmes is engaged by a noble family to recover papers involving the family in a scandal, and which are in the hands of a woman, who's sister was ruined by one of the members of the noble family. She is holding them to get revenge. Holmes discovers that the woman that holds these papers is the one that he had passed in the street, and to whom he was so singularly attracted. He tricks her out of the papers, but returns them to her, telling her that he believes that she will eventually give them to him of her own accord. He points out to her how much better it is to let the matter rest then to connect her own name with scandal to get revenge, not only on the man who caused he sister's unhappiness, but on the innocent members of his family. Holmes then goes to Watson's house, where he sends a note for the woman who holds the papers to meet him there. His cab driver, who is waiting outside, is the leader of the band of crooks. Holmes has penetrated his disguise, although the crook does not know this. Holmes brings him into the house under a pretext and there slips handcuffs on him. He has also sent for the nobleman to come to Watson's house. He has Dr. Watson

place the woman in a rear room so that she can overhear his conversation. He then turns over a package of blank papers to the nobleman, pretending he thinks they are the right ones. The nobleman berates him for have being duped. sherlock admits it, and cries that he is ruined. The woman than rushes into the room and through her love for Sherlock gives up the real papers. The nobleman leaves satisfied and as Watson shows him to the door, Holmes slips his arms about the woman, and tells her of his love."¹⁶¹

Reviews of Current Films - "Sherlock Holmes" - Reviewed by James S. McQuade



Essanay Full Page Magazine Ads

"William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes, in moving pictures, even at the ripe age of 63 years, was 'a consummation devoutly to be wished.' For five consecutive years he toured this country, England, and Canada in his famous play, during which theatergoers never tired looking at his characterization of Conan Doyle's great detective. A few more years and it would have become impossible for Mr. Gillette to take the part with the physical vigor that would recall his best efforts of the old days to his international-wide admirers, and at the same time would leave in comparatively permanent form, his Sherlock Holmes for the delight of future generations. I did not ask whether it had been done or not, but I hope that Essanay took two good negatives of this subject, so that the period of future time during which positive reproductions can be successfully made, shall be prolonged to the classic limit. Mr. Gillette acts like an old-timer before the camera, and is just as natural and forceful as we have seen him on the stage. The scene in Edelweiss Cottage,

¹⁶¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 28 Apr. - Jun. 1916 pg. 1228

where the Larrabees hold Alice Faulkner as a prisoner, shows Mr. Gillette as the Sherlock Holmes of years ago. The seeming lapses into a sleepiness of manner and action suddenly resolve into a display of imperiousness and overpowering mentality and will. The greatest scene in the photoplay, as it was in the drama, is that showing the test of wit and cunning and masterful resourceful ability between the detective and Professor Moriarty (the Emperor of Crooks), in the home of the former. Mr. Gillette never had a stronger opposite than Ernest Maupain in this great scene. This fine character actor well merits the distinction of being entombed in films for coming years with the master of all detective impersonators. Miss Marjorie Kay's Alice Faulkner and the Dr. Watson of Edward Fielding are both meritorious. Indeed, the cast is commendable throughout. 'Billy' (Burford Hampton), the 'Buttons' in Sherlock's home; Sidney Prince (William Postance), James and Madge Larrabee (Mario Majeroni and Miss Grace Reals), Sir Edward Leighton (Hugh Thompson) and Baron von Stalburg (Ludwig Kriess), all stand out prominently in the action in the films. The settings are worthy of the acted production, and these and talented direction must be credited to Director Arthur Betholet. The release will be made through V-L-S-E, Inc."¹⁶²



William Gillette

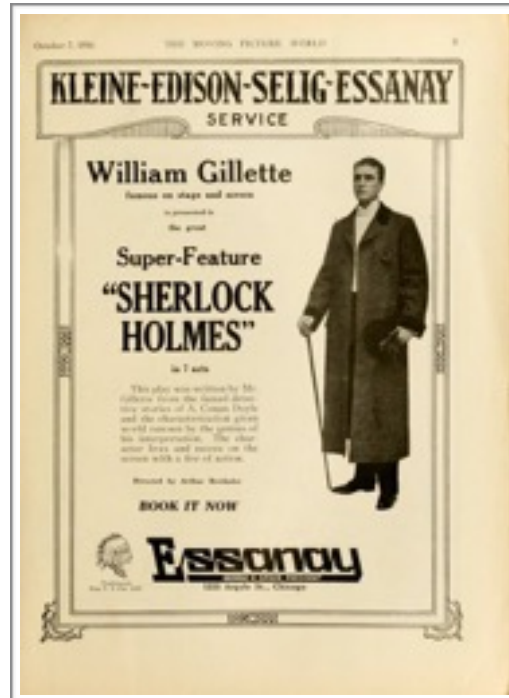
Mcquade's review of Sherlock Holmes, what an irony he hoped Essanay would make 2 good negatives, given that the film is lost.**

Late breaking GREAT news on the Gillette "Sherlock Holmes" silent film:

"I've found it! I've found it" (STUD)

¹⁶² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 28 Apr. - Jun. 1916 pg. 1530

**From a press release dated October 1, 2014, “The silent film version of ‘Sherlock Holmes’ starring William Gillette has been found! Long considered lost since its first release, the Gillette film is a vital missing link in the history of Holmes on screen. Directed by Arthur Berthelet and produced by Essanay Studios in 1916, it was discovered at the Cinémathèque Française only a few weeks ago... A nitrate dupe negative of *Sherlock Holmes* was found in the vaults of the Cinémathèque Française. Originally assembled for French distribution, the negative contains French flash titles and color annotations. This color information is quite surprising for an Essanay film, since usually Essanay’s domestic releases were usually in black and white. The colors in this case were probably intended for French distribution. The film is now being digitally restored by the San Francisco Silent Film Festival and the Cinémathèque Française... The European premiere will take place at the Cinémathèque Française’s festival of film restoration, Toute la Mémoire du Monde, in January 2015. The American premiere will take place at the San Francisco Silent Film festival in May 2015.”¹⁶³



William Gillette

Long run rule in Denver - “A week run is now becoming the way to go. "Birth of a Nation" was the first successful week run, new shows like "Sherlock Holmes" will be able to fill house for week run.”¹⁶⁴

¹⁶³ http://silentfilm.blob.core.windows.net/assets/SFSFF_SHERLOCKpressRELEASE.pdf

¹⁶⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 28 Apr. - Jun. 1916 pg. 2281

Spokes from the Hub by Marion Howard - "Well, when Essanay captured William Gillette it was a lucky day, and most of us old stagers (as to theater going) rather enjoyed the filmed version of "Sherlock Holmes" better than the speaking one. Maybe a familiarity with the lines and voices of the players aided in this view. The story is old, but Gillette does as a fine piece of work as has ever been given to the screen, so I would suggest 'repeats' on this all along the line."¹⁶⁵

News of Los Angeles and Vicinity - "One night this week a burglar jimmied his way into the box office at Tally's Broadway Theater and made his escape with a few dollars in nickels and dimes. And the funny part of it was Sherlock Holmes (the film) was resting quietly and serenely only a few feet away."¹⁶⁶

Chicago Newsletter - "Master of Make-Up" is a fitting title for Mr. Maupain. I have seen him in pictures in all the principal characters played by him while with Essanay, and, without exception, his acting and make-up were perfect. One only has to recall his impersonation of Prof. Moriarty in "Sherlock Holmes," produced by Essanay some time ago. That king of crooks had a glass eye, and anyone who watched closely Mr. Maupain's make-up for that part will remember that one of his eyes really appeared to have the constant stare of an artificial eye. It took considerable ingenuity to create this effect, and this is how it was done: Mr. Maupain pasted a piece of Gold beater's skin over his natural eye. Then he had an artist paint a human eye on the surface, which even in close-ups had all the semblance of a staring glass eye."¹⁶⁷

I don't remember anything about Moriarty having a glass eye? Was this part of Gillette's script changes?

Chicago Film Brevities - "Sir A. Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes stories, who was an interested spectator of Essanay's production of the "Sherlock Holmes" play, in which William Gillette plays the title role, at The Alhambra Theater, London, Eng., recently, wrote, in part, as follows to the firm interested in the picture distribution in Great Britain and Ireland: "Before leaving London let me say how pleased I was with the Sherlock Holmes production. It is admirable, and will forever preserve Gillette's wonderful rendering of the part."¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 28 Apr. - Jun. 1916 pg. n119

¹⁶⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 28 Apr. - Jun. 1916 pg. n706

¹⁶⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 32 Apr. - Jun. 1917 pg. 255

¹⁶⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 34 Oct. - Dec. 1917 pg. 1636

Bruce McRae - There is a nice article with photo and bio for Bruce McRae. It is mainly an article about him being the last minute replacement for the principal player in "'The Chain Invisible'" being filmed 20 miles inland from Havana, Cuba, and how he barely made the steamer just as the gang plank was being drawn, after only a few hours notice. The reason I'm mentioning this is because Bruce McRae, an Englishman by birth, and nephew of Sir Charles Wyndham, born at Bombay, India, and educated at Boulogne sur Mer, France, was none other than William Gillette's first stage Dr. Watson."¹⁶⁹



Bruce McRae

1916 - "The Tale of a Coat" - Jack MacDermott (1893 - 1946) as Jack Standing a millionaire Sherlock Holmes. Kalem Film Co.

Kalem Co. Ad - "The Tale of a Coat" - "Bud is an amateur cracksman, Gus his pal, Jack the millionaire Sherlock who seeks to win Ethel's favor."¹⁷⁰

"The Tale of a Coat" - Stories of the Films column - "The cast: Ethel (Ethel Teare); Mr. Dough (Charles Mulgro); Jack Standing (Jack MacDermott); Butler (Gus Leonard); the Master Cracksman (Bud Duncan). Produced by William Beaudine.

Gus and Bud are two blundering robbers, Jack a millionaire Sherlock Holmes, who gains Mr. Dough's consent to his marriage to Ethel when by pure luck he nabs the crooks after they have robbed the Dough home."¹⁷¹

¹⁶⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 27 Jan. - Mar. 1916 pg. 960

¹⁷⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 27 Jan. - Mar. 1916 pg. 46

¹⁷¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 27 Jan. - Mar. 1916 pg.657

"The Tale of a Coat" - Comments on the Films - "Sherlock Holmes is burlesqued in an amazing way during the action of this one reel comedy. As a master cracksman, Bud Duncan employs his comic energy without restraint, and Ethyl Teare, Charles Mulgro, Jack MacDermott and Gus Leonard do their best to keep pace with him."¹⁷²

1916 - "A Society Sherlock" - William Garwood (1884 - 1950) as Freddy De Peyster. Victor Film Co.

Universal to do Booth Novel - Article mentions "... to be followed immediately by another two-reel comedy to be done by Matt Moore and Jane Gail, entitled "The Society Sherlock."¹⁷³

Big Writers with Universal - Article mentions comedy writer Paul West will be working



on "The Society Sherlock".¹⁷⁴

William Garwood

"A Society Sherlock" - Comments on the Films - "A light comedy number, in which Wm. Garwood plays Freddie De Peyster, a would be detective at a house party. He breaks the jar containing the missing necklace and saves the situation; also gets the girl. This is attractive and pleasing."¹⁷⁵

"A Society Sherlock" - Stories of the Films - "The cast: Freddy De Peyster (William Garwood); Vera Van Zandt (Irma Dawkins). Adapted by Norbert Lusk. Produced by William Garwood.

¹⁷² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 27 Jan. - Mar. 1916 pg. 800

¹⁷³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 27 Jan. - Mar. 1916 pg. 1116

¹⁷⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 27 Jan. - Mar. 1916 pg. 1148

¹⁷⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 29 Jul. 1916 pg. 947

"Vera Van Zandt , a society girl, gives a weekend party. Freddy De Peyster, one of the guests, musters sufficient energy to propose to Vera, who tells him the man she marries must be a hero. Freddy gets hold of a volume of Sherlock Holmes, which he eagerly devours. The next day Vera receives a valuable necklace from her father as a birthday gift. On leaving the parlor that evening Vera forgets to take her necklace with her. Lenora, one of the guests suggests that they hide it so that she won't be so careless with diamonds. It is hidden in a vase on the center table. The loss is discovered and Vera's father informs the police. The police learn that the young man with the monocle, and Freddy, who is sleeping upstairs and under suspicion of being the culprit, is rudely awakened from his slumbers and rushed down into the parlor in scant attire. The police jostle him against the center of the table, causing the vase to fall. Freddy adjusts his monocle and there amidst the debris of shattered glass glisten the elusive diamonds. Thus Freddy has proved himself a veritable Sherlock, and in the final scene we see Vera crowning her hero with the necklace."¹⁷⁶

1916 - "Their First Divorce Case" - Mack Sennett and Fred Mace. Biograph Pictures.

Biograph Comedy Reissues - "Their First Divorce Case" - "Mr Murray again predominates in a 'Ten Karat Hero', issued with 'Their First Divorce Case', a cleverly devised story presenting Messrs. Sennett and Mace as burlesque detectives, unsuccessful disciples of Sherlock Holmes."¹⁷⁷

It appears Biograph reissued "Their First Divorce Case" to take advantage of Sennett & Mace's popularity with Keystone Films, as well as to promote 'Ten Karat Hero' placed on a split reel with it.

1916 - "A Toyland Mystery" - Actors unknown. Taylor and Wheatley Films.

"A Toyland Mystery" - Stories of the Films column - Plot summation - Jerry likes Tillie. Tillie's Dad Snitz prefers Slowfoot, a local Sherlock Holmes, for Tillie. Bosco the Bulldog steals a leg of lamb from Snitz's butcher shop. Snitz promises his daughter's hand in marriage to whoever can find the thief. Slowfoot the detective tails the clues, while meanwhile Jerry who had witnessed Bosco do it and kept quiet, now turns in the thief and wins Tillie's hand.¹⁷⁸

¹⁷⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 29 Jul. 1916 pgs. 990/991

¹⁷⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 27 Jan. - Mar. 1916 pg. 1148

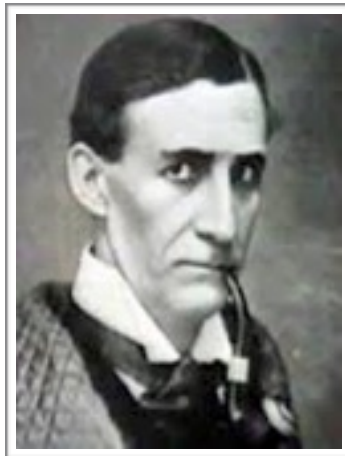
¹⁷⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 27 Jan. - Mar. 1916 pg. 2067

1916 - "The Double Double Cross" - William Dangman as Harold Hopeful.
Vitagraph Film Co.

"The Double Double Cross" - Stories of the Films - Cast: Harold Hopeful (William Dangman) - (plot summary - quickie) - Harold lands a job by out smarting all the applicants by pretending to be the boss and telling everyone the position is filled go home, they leave and being the only applicant Harold gets the job. A chief clerk who gambled away money plots with another clerk to get the money back. ..."Their plans are overheard by Harold, who decides to do a little Sherlock Holmes 'stuff'." "Gumshoe Harold" switches the money with blank paper, so when the chief clerk pays back with the wrong envelope and tries to pin the crime on Harold, it all backfires and Harold becomes the chief clerk.¹⁷⁹

Part thirteen of the series spent a lot of time on William Gillette's film "Sherlock Holmes", and rightfully so, but now for my - oh, and by the way, we will give you the rest of Sherlock Holmes in silent films for the year 1916 as promised. This includes H. A. Saintsbury in "The Valley of Fear", and Douglas Fairbanks in "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish", a Holmes you will have to see to believe.

1916 - "The Valley of Fear" - H. A. Saintsbury (1869 - 1939) as Sherlock Holmes and Arthur M. Cullin as Dr. Watson. Samuelson Film Mfg. (U.K.)

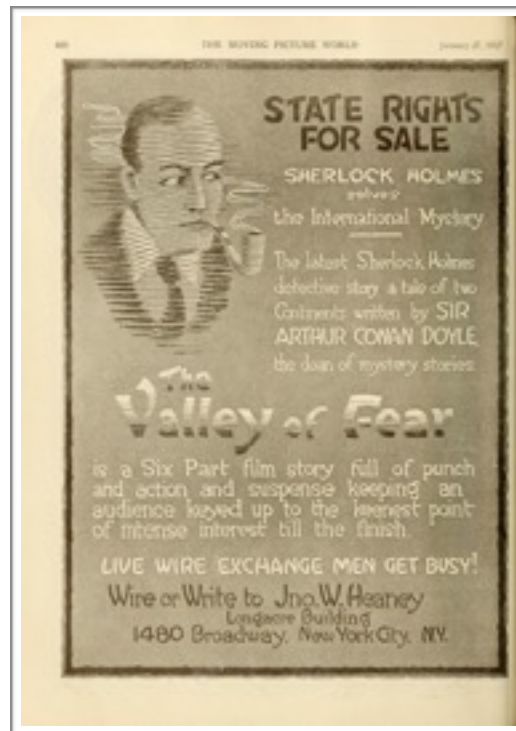


H. A. Saintsbury

"The Valley of Fear" - Comments on the Films - "Sherlock Holmes again makes his appearance in the latest A. Conan Doyle's detective story, "The Valley of Fear." The scenes are laid in a mining district of the United States and carried across the waters to London. The film, unlike the story, is full of action, mystery and deductions, and grips the

¹⁷⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 28 Apr. - Jun. 1916 pg. 1384

audience from the moment it flashed on the screen to finish. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the author, displayed the keenest interest in the writing of the scenario, and personally gave his attention to the cast and brought forth the Sherlock Holmes as he pictures and understands him to be. This picture is sold on a state right basis and is handled exclusively by John W. Heaney, 1480 Broadway, Longacre Building, New York City."¹⁸⁰



The Valley of Fear - H. A. Saintsbury

By the time "The Valley of Fear" was made, Harry Arthur Saintsbury had played Holmes more than a thousand times on stage. His interpretation of Holmes was notably restrained and made a powerful impression on the young Charlie Chaplin, who wrote of Saintsbury in 1964, "Mr. H. A. Saintsbury, who played Holmes on tour, was a living replica of the illustrations in The Strand Magazine. He had a long sensitive face and an inspired forehead. Of all those who played Holmes, he was considered the best, even better than William Gillette, the original Holmes and author of the play."¹⁸¹

Next up good Doctor, a couple of fish stories, or Fishlock Holmes!

¹⁸⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 31 Jan. - Mar. 1917 pg. 548

¹⁸¹ Charlie Chaplin, "My Autobiography" - 1964, pg. 81

1916 - "Robbing The Fishes" - Raymond McKee (1892 - 1984) as Sherlock Woof. Edison Films.



Raymond McKee

"Robbing The Fishes" - Stories of the Films - Cast: Sherlock Woof (Raymond McKee) - (plot summary -quickie) - The Fish family, are having a large wedding with lots of presents, and have read about a butler stealing someones wedding gifts, so they hire detective Sherlock Woof to keep an eye on the butler. After the wedding all the gifts, the butler and the detective are gone. Turns out the detective was the thief and the butler did the catching.¹⁸²

1916 - "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish" - Douglas Fairbanks Sr. (1883 - 1939) as Coke Ennyday/Sherlock Holmes. Vitagraph Film Co.



Douglas Fairbanks

¹⁸² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 28 Apr. - Jun. 1916 pg. 1388

“The Mystery of the Leaping Fish” is a short film starring Douglas Fairbanks and Bessie Love. In this unusually broad comedy for Fairbanks, the acrobatic leading man plays ‘Coke Ennyday,’ a cocaine-shooting detective parody of Sherlock Holmes given to injecting himself with cocaine from a bandolier of syringes worn across his chest and liberally helping himself to the contents of a hatbox-sized round container of white powder labeled ‘COCAINE’ on his desk. The movie, written by D.W. Griffith, Tod Browning, and Anita Loos, displays a surreally lighthearted attitude toward cocaine and opium. Fairbanks otherwise lampoons Sherlock Holmes with checkered detective hat, coat, and even car, along with the aforementioned propensity for injecting cocaine whenever he feels momentarily down, then laughing with delight. In addition to observing visitors at his door on what appears to be a closed-circuit television referred to in the title cards as his “scientific periscope,” a clock-like sign on the wall reminds him to choose between ‘EATS, DRINKS, SLEEPS, and DOPE.’¹⁸³



Douglas Fairbanks

“Fairbanks hated the film and reportedly wanted to have it withdrawn from circulation.”

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You MUST watch ‘The Mystery of the Leaping Fish’ at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fprVONwmYnc>

¹⁸³ Ivan Smirnov <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fprVONwmYnc>

¹⁸⁴ Vance, Jeffrey (2008). Cushman, Robert, ed. “Douglas Fairbanks”. U of Ca. Press. p. 36.

1916 - "The Great Detective" - Lloyd V. Hamilton (1891 - 1935) as Ham, a vigilant Sherlock, and Bud Duncan (1883 - 1960) as Bud, the Watson who takes care of his 999 disguises. Kalem Films.



Lloyd V. Hamilton

"The Great Detective" - Kalem's Funmakers Busy - "Ham makes a vigilant Sherlock and Bud the Watson who takes care of his 999 disguises. To secure many novelty effects trick work was called into strong play in this one-reeler. Ellen Godsay and A. Edmondson are others in the cast of 'The Great Detective', which is scheduled for release on July 18th."¹⁸⁵

1916 - "Otto The Sleuth" - Davy Don (1867 - 1949) as Otto, the German sleuth. Lubin Films.

"Otto The Sleuth" - Comments on the Films - "It is doubtful if Sherlock Holmes would approve of some of Otto's deductions while on the trail of a crime, but, as played by D. L. Don, the German sleuth is good for a lot of laughs. For a burlesque comedian, Mr. Don i.e. remarkably easy and restrained in his method. The plot of this one-reel farce has to do with the theft of a canary."¹⁸⁶

1916 - "Adventures of Mr. Nobody Holmes" - Animated short. Gregory LaCava, (U.S.)

¹⁸⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 29 Jul. - Sep. 1916 pg. n727

¹⁸⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 29 Jul. - Sep 1916 pg. 807

1916 - "Peaches and Ponies" - Henry Murdoch (1891 - 19??) as Gluefoot Gaspar, a near-Sherlock. Kalem Films.

"Peaches and Ponies" - Comments on the Films - ..."The story finds Ivy a troubled bride with a hubby who spends most of his time over the racing charts and the past performances of Molly S., Gay Widow, and such steeds. When Ivy's suspicions are aroused over these supposed home-breakers she engages a near-Sherlock, played in ludicrous fashion, by Henry Murdoch, with disastrous results."¹⁸⁷

"Peaches and Ponies" - Stories of the Films - The Cast: Bess (Ivory Close); Ray (Arthur Albertson); Gluefoot Gaspar (Henry Murdoch); Henry Sutton (Willie McKey); Dollie Cole (Frances Nemoyer). Producer, Robert Ellis. "For a recent bridegroom Ray gives all too much money to the race track, to the neglect of Bess. To make matters worse, Bess has discovered his notebook with mysterious references to Fanny S., Grass Widow, Some Chicken, and other supposed charmers, who are in reality race track favorites. Beth engages the services of Gluefoot Gaspar, who as a Sherlock is a scream. But Gaspar gets on the job and trails Ray to a fashionable cabaret, where he dines with Dolly. Gluefoot hustles Bess around to see the evidence and there is a whirl of excitement that brings trouble and laughs in quick succession until explanations bring out the fact that Dolly is an out-of-town buyer whom Ray had been delegated to entertain, and also the harmlessness of the notebook entries"¹⁸⁸

1916 - "A Villainous Villain" - Huey Mack (1884 - 1927) as Sherlock Oomph. Vitagraph Films.

"A Villainous Villain" - Stories of the Films - The cast: Sherlock Oomph (Huey Mack); Ida Dukkets (Patsy Deforest); The Villain (Harry Hammill); Old Man Dukkett (William Shea); Gentleman Joe (Ed Dunn). Authors Lawrence Semon and Graham Baker. Produced by Graham Baker.

"The master crook steals the sweetheart of Sherlock, a great detective. Sherlock undertakes to recover her. The crooks make futile attempts on his life and then to lure him to their den, they drag the girl at the end of a rope tied to an automobile. Sherlock chases it, captures the girl, and while she is trying to untie the rope, he holds the auto by strength. The auto and he pull and the rope parts in the middle. Sherlock falls over while the auto plunges over the end of a pier. It sinks to the bottom where the crooks strip the tires off, and, using them as life preservers, come to the top, just as the master crook

¹⁸⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 29 Jul. - Sep 1916 pg. 1147

¹⁸⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 29 Jul. - Sep. 1916 pg. 1147

pushes the girl into the water. Sherlock blows his police whistle and the motorboat cops start up. Sherlock, in casting off the rope that ties the boat to the dock, gets tangled in it and is dragged through the water after the boat. The crooks and the girl flee in a rowboat. The motorboat cuts through the frail craft, throwing the crooks and the girl into the water. As Sherlock flies by at the end of his rope, he grabs the girl and they climb into the motorboat and are saved. They leave the crooks struggling in the water."¹⁸⁹

"A Villainous Villain" - Comments on the Films - "Rapid-fire action and the work of Huey Mack and Patsy Deforest make this one-reel farce comedy a laugh producer. Thrills and humor are furnished when an automobile filled with crooks drives off a dock. The story is burlesque on the time-honored melodramatic plot in which the daughter of a banker is kidnapped by the villainous villain. The denouncement comes when she is rescued from the water by Sherlock Oomph, as he trails on a rope behind a motorboat."¹⁹⁰

1916 - "Through the Wall" - Vitagraph Films.

"Through the Wall" - Manufacturer's Advanced Notes - "Through the Wall" is one of the finest mystery pictures Vitagraph has ever produced. For genuine thrills and subtle detective work it equals Sherlock Holmes at his best."¹⁹¹



Through the Wall

Spokes from the Hub by Marion Howard - Mentions - "... "Through the Wall" one of the best detective mystery plays offered us -- better even than Sherlock Holmes (some of our lawyers say). The wreck scene in mid-ocean was some thriller."¹⁹²

¹⁸⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 29 Jul. - Sep. 1916 pg. 1875

¹⁹⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 29 Jul. - Sep. 1916 pg. 1992

¹⁹¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 30 Oct. - Dec. 1916 pg. 97

¹⁹² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 30 Oct. - Dec. 1916 pg. 1105

1916 - **"The Waif"** - Matty Roubert (1907 - 1973) as the waif. Aurora Film Co.



Matty Roubert

Film is listed in "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle at The Cinema" by Scott Allen Nollen , as a parody of Sherlock Holmes film. Seems to be about a waif in N.Y.C.? Perhaps I'm missing something here? Nice article on boy star Matty Roubert is here: <http://www.b-westerns.com/henchie18.htm>

To finish up the year 1916, we will give a mention to three German silent films, and once again our old friend Alwin Neuss is a key player in two of them.

1916 - **"Sherlock Holmes auf Urlaub"** or, **"Sherlock Holmes on Holiday"** or, **"Sherlock Holmes on Leave"** - Alwin Neuss as Sherlock Holmes. Directed by Karl Schoenfeld (Germany).



Alwin Neuss

1916 - **"Sherlock Holmes auf Urlaub II"** or, **"Der Wärfwolf"** - or, **"The Werewolf"** or, **"Sherlock Holmes and the Midnight Meeting"**- Alwin Neuss as Sherlock Holmes. Directed by Karl Schoenfeld (Germany).

1916 - **"Die Hand"**, or **"The Hand"** - Actors unknown. Eiko-Films (Germany).

You may have read the comment from some researchers that from the “Valley of Fear” (1916) until the Eille Norwood, Stoll Pictures’ series (1921 - 1923), there was a lull in the production of major Sherlock Holmes films. I have MANY films to list for this supposed ‘lull’ period, and although they might not be labeled ‘major’, and while a great deal of them came from Germany, I will leave it up to you to decide if this is a ‘lull’ period or not. I’m of the feeling that the entire silent film era was a golden age for the Sherlock Holmes film fans.

A series of feature films for Kowo-Gesellschaft für Filmfabrikation, Germany (unauthorized of course), were produced in the years (1917 - 1919). I’m not for certain how many were made, although I have come up with 14 titles. Three different actors played Sherlock Holmes, but all were directed by Karl Heinz Rolf.

1917 - “Der Erdstrommotor” or, “The Earthquake Motor” - Hugo Flink as Sherlock Holmes. Kowo-Films (Germany).

1917 - “Die Kasette” or, “The Mysterious Casket” - Hugo Flink (1879 - 1947) as Sherlock Holmes. Kowo-Films (Germany).



Austrian Hugo Flink

1917 - “Der Schlangenring” or, “The Snake Ring” - Hugo Flink as Sherlock Holmes. Kowo-Films (Germany).

1917 - “Die Indiesche” or, “The Indian Spider” - Hugo Flink as Sherlock Holmes. Kowo-Films (Germany).

1918 - “Was Er im Spiegel Sah” or, “What He Saw In The Window” - Ferdinand Bonn as Sherlock Holmes. Kowo-Films (Germany).

1918 - “Die Giftplombe” or, “The Poisoned Seal” - Ferdinand Bonn (1861 - 1933) as Sherlock Holmes. Kowo-Films (Germany).

1918 - “Das Schicksal der Renate Yongk” or, **“The Fate of Renate Yongk”** - Ferdinand Bonn as Sherlock Holmes. Kowo-Films (Germany).



Ferdinand Bonn

1918 - “Die Dose des Kardinals” or, **“The Cardinal's Snuffbox”** - Ferdinand Bonn as Sherlock Holmes. Kowo-Films (Germany).

1918 - “Brockhaus, Band dreizehn” or, **“Brockhous, Band Thirteen”** - Ferdinand Bonn as Sherlock Holmes. Kowo-Films (Germany)

1918 - “X Y Z” - Ferdinand Bonn? as Sherlock Holmes. Kowo-Films (Germany)

1919 - “An den Herrn Ersten Staatsanwalt” or, **“First to the Lord Prosecutor”** - Ferdinand Bonn as Sherlock Holmes. Kowo-Films (Germany)

1919 - “Echte Perlen” or, **“Pearls”** - Ferdinand Bonn as Sherlock Holmes. Kowo-Films (Germany)

1919 - “John Barrens und seine Geliebte” or, **“John Barrens and his Mistress”** - Kurt Brenkendorf (1886 - 19??) as Sherlock Holmes. Kowo-Films (Germany)



Kurt Brenkendorf

1919 - “Der Mord im Spenid Hotel” or, “Murder in the Hotel Splendid” - Kurt Brenkendorf as Sherlock Holmes. Kowo-Films (Germany)

Familiar names we have seen before portraying Holmes would also pop-up in this period of years in assorted Holmes related German (plus one from Denmark) silent films.

1917 - “Sherlock Holmes Nächtliche Begegnung” or, “Sherlock Holmes' Nocturnal Encounter” - Alwin Neuss as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Films (Germany).

1917 - “Die Memoiren des Satans, 1. Teil - Doktor Mors” or, “The Memoirs of Satan 1 Part - Doctor Mors” - Kurt Brenkendorf as Sherlock Holmes. Luna Films (Germany). (“The Memoirs of Satan, Part 2 - Fanatics of Life” - “The Memoirs of Satan, Part 3 - The Curse Loaded”)

1918 - “Rotterdam - Amsterdam” - Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Messter-Film (Germany).

1918 - “Den firbenede Sherlock Holmes” or, “Ras og Lux som Detektiver” or, “The Four-Legged Sherlock Holmes” or, “Ras and Lux as Detectives” - Rasmus Christiansen (1885 - 1964) (as Nokke the private detective. Nordisk Films (Denmark).



Rasmus Christiansen



Ras and Lux as Detectives

“A four-legged Holmes, a four-legged Holmes, he'll never let you down!” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6SU-MvR8_M

1919 - “Drei Tage Tot” or, “Three Days Dead” - Viggo Larsen as Sherlock Holmes. Bioscop Konzern (Germany). (The Dying Detective?)

Isn't it fascinating that Germany continues making Holmes films oblivious of the World War.

1917 - The Whispered Name - T. D. Crittenden as Sherlock Holmes. Rex Motion Picture Company.



T. D. Crittenden

“William Standiford goes to Hopeville to attend his friend's wedding, and finds a note that his friend has been delayed. In order to amuse himself he goes to the County Fair, where he picks up a purse returning it to its owner, Madeline Evers. He also finds a pin which he places in his scarf. A rube wearing a similar pin winks at him knowingly, and he sees another man, wearing the same style pin, hand the rube a wallet. A tramp thrusts into Standiford's hand the purse he just returned to Madeline. He finds her card in the purse, and is surprised to learn that she is the girl mentioned in his friend's letter she is to act as bridesmaid. He is arrested by the deputy sheriff on account of the pin he is wearing, and three of the gang plan to aid his escape. One of them, to allay suspicion, appears against him, after whispering to the sheriff, and gives him a telegram stating a gang are operating at the fair, wearing scarf pins of the same design. Standiford, embarrassed on seeing Madeline, who has reported her loss, gives the name Benjamin Parker until he can explain to the sheriff alone. The crook swears Standiford stole his wallet, and the wallet and purse are found on him. The purse is returned to Madeline, who endeavors to defend Standiford, but the judge denounces him as a thief. The crooks assist him to escape from jail, and he is taken to their leader, Fyles, a society crook, who forces him to join in robbing the home of Judge Fortescue, the father of the bride. Tops, Holmes, Fyles and Standiford enter the house, and Fyles forces Standiford to seize Madeline, who is a guest of the bride, as she enters the room. He whispers to her that he is her friend, and to pretend to faint. He carries her to a chair, and, taking off his mask, reveals his identity, and defies Fyles who starts to shoot, but is stopped by Madeline with a revolver. Standiford disarms Fyles, and after tying Fyles, rushes up stairs where Holmes and Tops are struggling. The sheriff arrives after Standiford has subdued Tops. Standiford learns that Holmes is a detective, and Holmes gives him credit for the capture. The picture ends with a suggestion of a deeper affection between Standiford and Madeline.”¹⁹³

¹⁹³ http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0007561/plotsummary?ref_=tt_ov_pl

1917 - “A Modern Sherlock” - Eddie Sutherland (1895 - 1973) as Sherlock Holmes. Triangle Films.



Eddie Sutherland

“A Modern Sherlock” - A parody of Sherlock Holmes with former Keystone Cop A. Edward Sutherland in the starring role. New Triangle Dramas - Manufacturer's Advanced Notes ... "His Busy Day" and "A Modern Sherlock" will also be released on Oct. 21st as one-reel Triangle Komedies on the regular program."¹⁹⁴

1917 - “Jimmy Dale, Alias The Grey Seal” - E. K. Lincoln (1884 - 1958) as Jimmy Dale. Monmouth Films.



E. K. Lincoln

"Jimmy Dale, Alias The Grey Seal" - (Monmouth) - 16 episodes - Describing Jimmy Dale it says "...In an attempt to right the wrongs of others he is often forced to commit what is

¹⁹⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 34 Oct. - Dec. 1917 pg. 554

generally considered a crime. In short, he is a combination of Sherlock Holmes, Arsene Lupin, and Robin Hood. ..."195

From Ray once again: "If Jimmy Dale is Sherlock Holmes is Robin Hood – that makes Dr Watson...Little John!"

1917 - "The Mirror of Fear" - Robert Ellis (1892 - 1974) as a Master Mind, crippled in body but possessed of the cunning of a Sherlock Holmes. Kalem Films.

Kalem Companies Busy - Manufacturer's Advanced Notes - "Down in Jacksonville, Florida, Robert Ellis is planning to introduce a new character into "The Grant Police Reporter" series -- a Master Mind, crippled in body but possessed of the cunning of a Sherlock Holmes, although diverted to criminal channels. He will play the role himself as well as direct..."196

1917 - "The Great Secret" - "Cupid's Puzzle - Chapter IX" - Sherlock Holmes of N.Y. unknown. Metro Pictures.

"The Great Secret" - "Cupid's Puzzle - Chapter IX" - Comments on the Films - "...Detective Redman Sears, know as "The Sherlock Holmes of New York," calls on him and tells him that the chief of detectives, Ackerton, has been murdered."197

1917 - "The Great Secret" - "The Woman in the Game - Chapter X" - Sherlock Holmes of N.Y. unknown. Metro Pictures.

"The Great Secret" - The Woman in the Game - Chapter X" - Reviews of Current Productions - "...In the meantime Sears, the detective that brought the papers to Strong, has been captured by the Secret Seven, but escapes them in a way that would do credit to Sherlock Holmes himself."198

"The Great Secret" - "The leading romantic team of the 1910s, on as well as off the screen, Francis X. Bushman and Beverly Bayne experienced a major failure with this serial released in 18 chapters by Louis B. Mayer. The screenplay, by Fred de Gresac, was the already then hoary old story of a beautiful heiress who must fend off a series of usurpers before she can collect the reward and marry Prince Charming. Serial audiences, alas, didn't take to the Bushman/Bayne team, who was better equipped for stolid society

¹⁹⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 30 Oct. - Dec. 1916 pg.1002

¹⁹⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 31 Jan. - Mar. 1917 pg. 1381

¹⁹⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 31 Jan. - Mar. 1917 pg. 1411

¹⁹⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 31 Jan. - Mar. 1917 pg. 1757

dramas than rough-and-tumble chapter play shenanigans. The Great Secret, in fact, marked the beginning of a rapid decline for the couple, whose careers were soon in the doldrums."¹⁹⁹

1917 - "The Boob" - Frederick Eckhart as Don Whipple. Selig Films.

"The Boob" - Manufacturer's Advanced Notes - "General Film Co. is calling special attention to the merits of "The Boob," the latest of the Selig multiple reel productions...."The Boob" is a comedy-drama.....The picture has to do with the consuming ambition of Don Whipple of Pleasant Valley, to become a Sherlock Holmes. His butter and egg money amounting to \$100 is cheerfully handed over to a gentleman stranger, who furnishes Don with a bright shield and diploma. Don works overtime at the detective business, and his industry is rewarded when he encounters a masked man robbing the post office. How the country youth, classified as a 'boob' effects the capture of the notorious crook, wins a thousand dollar reward and incidentally the love of a pretty country girl, combine to make this comedy-drama very entertaining...."²⁰⁰

1917 - "The Wart on the Wire" - William Franey (1889 - 1940) as Sherlock Holmes. Joker Films.

"The Wart on the Wire" - Comments on Films - A comic number, by Tom Gibson & C.B. Hoadley, featuring Gale Henry, William Franey, and Milburn Moranti. Gale appears as Polly Piffle, who has invented a wart-less pickle, and Franey as Sherlock Holmes detective. The action is laughable and nonsensical. This will amuse the average audience



immensely."²⁰¹

William Franey

¹⁹⁹ Hans J. Wollstein, Rovi

²⁰⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 31 Jan. - Mar. 1917 pg. 2133

²⁰¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 34 Oct. - Dec. 1917 pg. 253

1917 - "The Grell Mystery" - Earle Williams (1880 - 1927) as Heeldon Foyle, a detective of the Sherlock Holmes type. Vitagraph Films.



Earle Williams

"The Grell Mystery"- Review of Current Productions - "...The mystery surrounds a murder that defies the right solution, until nearly all the characters have been accused of the crime. Heeldon Foyle, a detective of the Sherlock Holmes type, finally manages to lay hands on the guilty person, but only after circumstances point to the woman he loves as the one who wielded the dagger and he had made up his mind to put her under arrest....."²⁰²

1917 - "Water on the Brain" - William Franey (1889 - 1940) as Sherlock Holmes. Nestor Films.

"Water on the Brain" - Comments on Films - "A very funny murder, by Tom Gibson, featuring William Franey, Lillian Peacock, and Milburn Moranti. The former appears as a burlesque Sherlock Holmes and uses the "Smellograph" and other new inventions for detecting crime. This is extremely laughable and one of the best detective travesties yet shown."²⁰³

²⁰² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 34 Oct. - Dec. 1917 pg. 1338

²⁰³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 34 Oct. - Dec. 1917 pg. 1342

1917 - "The Dream Doll" - Rod La Rocque (1898 - 1969) and Marguerite Clayton, as the Dolls. George Kleine System.

"The Dream Doll" - (George Kleine System) - Dec. 10 - A film in which a dreaming person believes they are all dolls. "After the honeymoon trip they select the kennel of Sherlock, the watchdog, as their home."²⁰⁴



Marguerite Clayton and Rod La Rocque

1918 - "Torpedo Pirates" - Walter Stevens (1889 - 1940) as Sherlock Holmes. L-Ko Kompany.

"Torpedo Pirates" - Film Stories - The cast: The Professor (Harry Lorraine); His Assistant (Hughie Mack); Prof's Daughter (Gladys Varden); Sherlock Holmes (Walter Stevens); The Vamp (Catherine Young). Directed by Noel Smith.

Mr. P. Nutt invented a rather wonderful flying torpedo, which was worth millions when it flew, but his happiness was marred by his daughter's crush on his helping hand. The president of The Midnight Thieves' Association craved the torpedo, so he sent Vampa, a well set-up young woman, to find a man who looked like Sherlock Holmes. They found him in a trash-can pulling a Hoover out of the garbage. When the inventor learned the eyes of the spies were upon him, he hastened to the detective agency and besought the trash-can dweller to take the case. Father returned - they always do - delighted at his date with Vampa. She arrived with a copyrighted scheme of her own to make the old duffer jealous. She winked her pretty eyes at the helping hand, who could not withstand the

²⁰⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 34 Oct. - Dec. 1917 pg. 1678

temptation. The scheme worked fine, the inventor became crazy jealous. ‘You tub of lard - I could kill you - here!’, shouted the frenzied P. Nutt, slapping him on the wrist. His rough words had an awful effect on Fatty, who resorted to tears. Suddenly a tremendous noise was heard, a storm came up - big ocean waves resounded their morbid chantings - the family was eating soup. Camouflaged by his tempestuous ordeal, the gang was making away with the torpedo, when Detective Snitch smelt trouble and dashing up into the private chamber he kicked the crooks in the hallway and flew out on the marvelous torpedo. He was nearing France and the gas was giving way, when he was rescued by the inventor and the family.”²⁰⁵

Ray on a roll: “Methinks Torpedo Pirates wins the ‘Best Cocaine-Induced Sherlockian Phantasmagoria Award.”

1918 - “The Face in The Dark” - Mae Marsh (1884 - 1968) as Jane Ridgeway, the captivating little Sherlock Holmes. Goldwyn Films.



Mae Marsh

“The Face in The Dark” "It is the tale of a young girl whose sweetheart is arrested for robbing a bank. She plays a detective and discovers that all trails lead to her father, which frees up her sweetheart. Then it turns out her father is really a secret service man working undercover infiltrating the gang. Mae Marsh makes a captivating little Sherlock Holmes ..."²⁰⁶

²⁰⁵ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 35 Jan. - Mar. 1918 pg. 418

²⁰⁶ "Motion Picture Magazine", Vol. 15.2-16 Mar - Jul. 1918 pg. 93

1918 - "Little Miss Sherlock" - Zoe Rae (1910 - 2006) as Jane Ridgeway, the captivating little Sherlock Holmes. Universal Films.



Zoe Rae

"Little Miss Sherlock" - Upcoming Features - "Will be a Little Zoe Rae feature, directed by Rea Berger, who becomes this clever little girl's screen manager with this issue. Norris Shannon wrote the story and Francis F. Clark made the screen preparations. Claire Du Brey, Charles Hill Mailes, and William Carroll will have prominent supporting roles."²⁰⁷

1918 - "Sherlock Ambrose" - Mack "Ambrose" Swain (1876 - 1935) as Sherlock Ambrose. Universal Films.



Mack "Ambrose" Swain

²⁰⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 35 Jan. - Mar. 1918 Pg. 539

"Sherlock Ambrose" - Universal - "Another engagement that will interest exhibitors of L-Ko's calls for the appearance of Mack "Ambrose" Swain in a series of comedies directed by W.S. Fredericks. The first of the Ambrose pictures has been released, and "Sherlock Ambrose", a detective comedy, is now in the making."²⁰⁸

"Mack Swain will star in "Sherlock Ambrose", Feb. 27, offering a comedy detective story, with slapstick trimmings."²⁰⁹

"The L-Ko releases a Max Swain two-reel L-Ko Komedy entitled "Sherlock Ambrose." It is all about a hobo who is mistaken for a detective and plays the part even to the recovery of a stolen ring through no fault of his own."²¹⁰

"Sherlock Ambrose" - "A two reel comic featuring Mack Swain as an immigrant who is mistaken as a detective by the president of a school for girls. He finds a diamond ring lost by one of the girls and is duly rewarded. Some very funny spots crop up in this number, which is quite enjoyable."²¹¹

1918 - "The Midnight Trail" - William Russell (1884 - 1929) as Jack Woodford, a romantic Sherlock Holmes . American Film Co.

"The forthcoming William Russell production was produced under the title of 'Detective Dan Cupid', and gives the capable young screen actor the role of a romantic Sherlock Holmes. It provides Mr. Russell plenty of opportunity to develop the particular type of humor which marked his most recent picture productions, every one which has been a distinct box office success."²¹²

"The Midnight Trail" is the title of the forthcoming William Russell production, which will be released by Mutual Feb. 25. The picture was made by The American Film Co., Inc. and was directed by Edward Sloman. "Big Bill" as the big star is called by his host of admirers, is seen as a young man of virile and volatile temperament in who the spirit of adventure an romance is rampant. Inspired by the thrillers of his favorite author, Conan Doyle, he poses as an up-to-date Sherlock Holmes and sleuths on the trail of jewel thieves, in order to meet the daughter of a minister who has been robbed and get the

²⁰⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 35 Jan. - Mar. 1918 Pg. 539

²⁰⁹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 35 Jan. - Mar. 1918 Pg. 695

²¹⁰ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 35 Jan. - Mar. 1918 Pg. 1846

²¹¹ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 35 Jan. - Mar. 1918 Pg. 1868

²¹² "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 35 Jan. - Mar. 1918 Pg. 842

inside track of the game of hearts. Russell's delineation of the pseudo Sherlock is in his best seriocomic vein which has been evident in his recent productions.”²¹³

On the cover of the Swedish Theater Program, from 1918 pictured on the right above, you can clearly see that “The Midnight Trail” was marketed there as a Sherlock Holmes film.

"The Midnight Trail" - America Presents William Russell in a Five-Part Comedy Drama



of an Amateur Detective, an Expert Thief and a Girl Worth-While.

William Russell

Cast: Jack Woodford (William Russell); Alice Morehead (Francelia Billington); Rev. Robert Moreland (Sydney Deane); Harry Moreland (Jerome Sheler); Harvey Faxon (Carl Stockdale); Benjamin Thurston (Edward Jobson); Jasper Stride (Harvey Clark); W. H. Irons (Clarence Burton); Marie (Helen Howard); Jim Morton (Alfred Ferguson). Directed by Edward Sloman.

The Story: "Jack Woodford, a young millionaire, knows the Sherlock Holmes stories backward. When he sees Alice Moreland at his lawyer's office and learns that she seeks some jewels stolen from her father, Jack gets the card of a real detective and introduces himself into the Moreland home. He is startled to find that Alice, herself, takes valuables from the safe and returns them to the rector. The latter's secretary denounces him as an imposter and a real detective is called in, but before he goes Jack solves the mystery and takes a heavy fee."

Advertising Aides for Busy Managers - Stunt Suggestions - Get your book stores to show the Conan Doyle stories and get a card and a still, the card to read: "Jack Woodford

²¹³ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 35 Jan. - Mar. 1918 pg. 1252

(house and date) that he made it pay. Buy some books and start studying today. Perhaps YOU can win a rich reward." For street work have a well dressed young man go down the street passing out cards reading: "W.H. Irons, Private Detective. See all about me at (house and date.)"²¹⁴ ...

RW: "Love the advertising aides for The Midnight Trail – directing patrons to read the Canon!"

1918 - "Coragáo Creanga" - Actors unknown. Gloria Films (Italy)

"It debuted, too, with little success, "Sherlock Holmes," police film, based on the work of Conan Doyle. The film "Coragáo Creanga," as was once displayed in the halls Trinity and High-Life Eden Theater - Just finished ... Hall debut was in the film 9 episodes "Coragao Creanga," film Italian Film Gloria's house. It debuted, too, with little success, "Sherlock Holmes," police film, based on the work of Conan Doyle."²¹⁵ (Translated from Portuguese)

1918 - "A Black Sherlock Holmes" - Sam Robinson (1888 - 1971) as Knick Carter, a black Sherlock Holmes and Rudolph Tatum as Rheuma Tism, Carter's sidekick (Watson). Ebony Films.



Sam Robinson

"A Black Sherlock Holmes" - Critical Reviews and Comments - The main feature of this reel, the first Ebony comedy, also a new brand on The General Film program, is the fact that the cast is composed entirely of colored players. It is a burlesque on the Sherlock

²¹⁴ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 35 Jan. - Mar. 1918 Pg. 1415

²¹⁵ "Cine-Mundial" Nov. 1918 Pg. 731

Holmes stories, and while there are some amusing scenes, there is a tendency among all the players to over act. Its strongest point is the novelty of the cast.”²¹⁶



Is this the first ever image of JohnLock??

"A Black Sherlock Holmes" - Comments - "A novel feature in connection with this brand, which is new to the General Film program, is that the cast is composed of entirely negro players. The story is a burlesque on Sherlock Holmes, and has some amusing situations, but the players are inclined to overact.”²¹⁷

1918 - "Hide and Seek Detectives" - Ben Turpin (1869 - 1940) as Hide and Charles Lynn (Heinie Conklin) (1886 - 1969) as Seek. Paramount - Mack Sennett Comedy.



Ben Turpin and Charles Lynn

²¹⁶ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 36 May - Jun. 1918 Pg. 745

²¹⁷ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 36 May - Jun. 1918 Pg. 896



Ben Turpin

"Hide and Seek Detectives" - for release Dec. 15, 1918 - As the title implies, there is much of the Sherlock Holmes travesty in this two-reeler, with Ben Turpin and Charles Lynn playing the title characters and Marie Prevost in another important role."²¹⁸

1919 - "The Carter Case" - Herbert Rawlinson (1885 - 1953) as Craig Kennedy. Oliver Films.

Item Page 122 - "The Carter Case" - (Oliver Films) - "Episodes in the career of Craig Kennedy, with Herbert Rawlinson disguised as that chemical Sherlock."²¹⁹

Arthur B. Reeve's Famous Scientific Detective is now on the screen - the stories which caused your blood to boil when you read them in the "Cosmopolitan" magazine are now more real on the screen! (original ad below)



Book Ad for The American Conan Doyle - Arthur B. Reeve
& The American Sherlock Holmes - Craig Kennedy

²¹⁸ "The Moving Picture World" magazine Vol. 37/38 Jul. - Dec. 1918 pg. 1050

²¹⁹ Photoplay Magazine Jan-Jun 1919. Vol 15-16 Pg. 122

1919 - "I Will, I Will, I Will" - Wallace Bosco (1880 - 1973) as Sherlock Blake. Ideal Films (U.K.).



Wallace Bosco

"I Will, I Will, I Will" - A lazy young man is aided by Sherlock Blake to help win the hand of a socialite's daughter.

1920 - "The Village Sleuth" - Charles Ray (1891 - 1943) as William Wells, a bucolic Sherlock Holmes. Paramount.



Charles Ray

"The Village Sleuth" - Cast: Charles Ray - "This time he is a bucolic Sherlock Holmes and the world just seethes with clues and crimes"²²⁰

"The Village Sleuth" - Across the Silver Screen -Starring Charles Ray - "...The story is trite and tells of this boy who reads Dead-Eye-Dick detective stories while he should be doing his chores. Finally his sheriff-father permits him to leave the farm and seek fame as a detective and he eventually lands at a sanitarium where his Sherlock Holmes talents are no longer wasted on the discovery of watermelon thieves."²²¹

²²⁰ Photoplay Magazine Jan-Jun 1920. Vol 17-18 pg. 95

²²¹ Motion Picture Magazine 1921 (Jan) (Vol 20) pg. 116/117

1920 - “Bray Pictograph, No. 448” - Sherlock Holmes, a trained dog. Goldwyn.

“Bray Pictograph, No. 448” - Short Reels "...Sherlock Holmes, a trained dog, is shown performing some of his stunts in the section titled, ‘Do Dogs Reason?’ Undoubtably the canine is remarkably well trained, but as to his reasoning powers, those are still left in doubt despite this exhibition."²²²...

Germany, for a reason I’m not aware of, it seems re-released the final two episodes of the seven piece “Der Hund von Baskerville” series, which I have as being made in 1915 and 1916, once again in 1920.

1920 - “Dr. MacDonald’s Sanitarium”- Erich Kaiser-Titz as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

1920 - “The House Without Any Windows”- Erich Kaiser-Titz as Sherlock Holmes. Vitascope Pictures (Germany).

From the world of animation we would get Mutt & Jeff in a cartoon.

1920 - “Sherlock Hawkshaw and Company”- A Mutt & Jeff Cartoon. Modern Film Sales Corp.

And from Latin America??

1920 - “Memories of Detective Tex”- Actors unknown. (Argentina?, Cuba?)

“The most sensational series of the year, ‘Memories of Detective Tex’ a new character of detective stories that rival the famous adventures of Sherlock Holmes, by Conan Doyle...”²²³



Memories of Detective Tex

²²² "The Film Daily" (Volume 13-14) Jul-Dec 1920 pg. 272

²²³ "Cine-Mundial" Vol. 5 1920

Finally the notice below is a harbinger of big things to come, namely the release of Stoll's ambitious "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1921), "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1922) and "The Last Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1923) making Eille Norwood the most prolific silent film Sherlock Holmes, with forty-five shorts and two features.

These films will be discussed starting in part seventeen of this essay series.

Item page 2 Oct 14, 1920 - "In January, Elvey will begin the production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" Stoll films will be re-edited by American experts before release in this country."²²⁴

I hope it wasn't those same 'American experts' who cut out the eight minutes of each episode of the BBC "Sherlock" series!

The best measure for a film's popularity in the silent film era was the length of its run (the period of time it stayed in the theater). Based on run time the most popular Sherlock Holmes film of the silent film era had to be John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" of 1922 which played in theaters for over two years, quite a feat (but no surprise as John Barrymore was the number one box office star). Running a close second with a year and a half run was surprisingly, a little known today Holmes parody, 1921's "Sherlock Brown", starring Bert Lytell as William "Sherlock" Brown. However, when quantity is also added to the mix, with the addition of Stoll Films' "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1921), "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1922) and "The Last Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1923) starring Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes, with forty-five shorts and two features, one could easily claim the years (1921-1923) were a golden age for the Sherlock Holmes fans. Perhaps present times, with Robert Downey Jr. as Holmes in the theaters, Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock on TV, Ross K. Foad as Holmes on Internet, and Holmes stage plays somewhere every weekend, draws the closest comparison to this splendid time period.

While many think only three of the Stoll's Eille Norwood series still exist, Louise Penn of the U.K. has informed me all but "The Dancing Men" still exist. She said she has viewed six, and will soon view five more, of them at various UK film festivals and at the British Film Institute. In 2015 she said the Barbican shows the two feature length ones, which is very exciting. The copyrights are owned by Andrew Lloyd Webber and the fact he hasn't made them widely available for screening or on DVD is very sad. Still pretty amazing if factual, considering how many silent films have been lost.

So let us look at the year 1921 and see what films one could see, starting out of course with Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes, in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes".

²²⁴ "The Film Daily" (Volume 13-14) Jul-Dec 1920 pg. 2

Photoplay Magazine commented the advance word on the film series is - “It is the real Sherlock Holmes, done into a number of two reel pictures, each telling a different story, from the worlds most famous mysteries. There is no sticky love interest to be upheld --- this is the cool detective of the test tubes and the many clues --- who works, step by step, toward a solution. The cast is well chosen of English players. Worthwhile.”²²⁵

1921 - “The Dying Detective”, Eille Norwood (1861 - 1948) as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis (1876 - 1984) as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

“The Dying Detective” can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaxEn0NPw-Y>

1921 - “The Devil’s Foot”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).



The Devil’s Foot

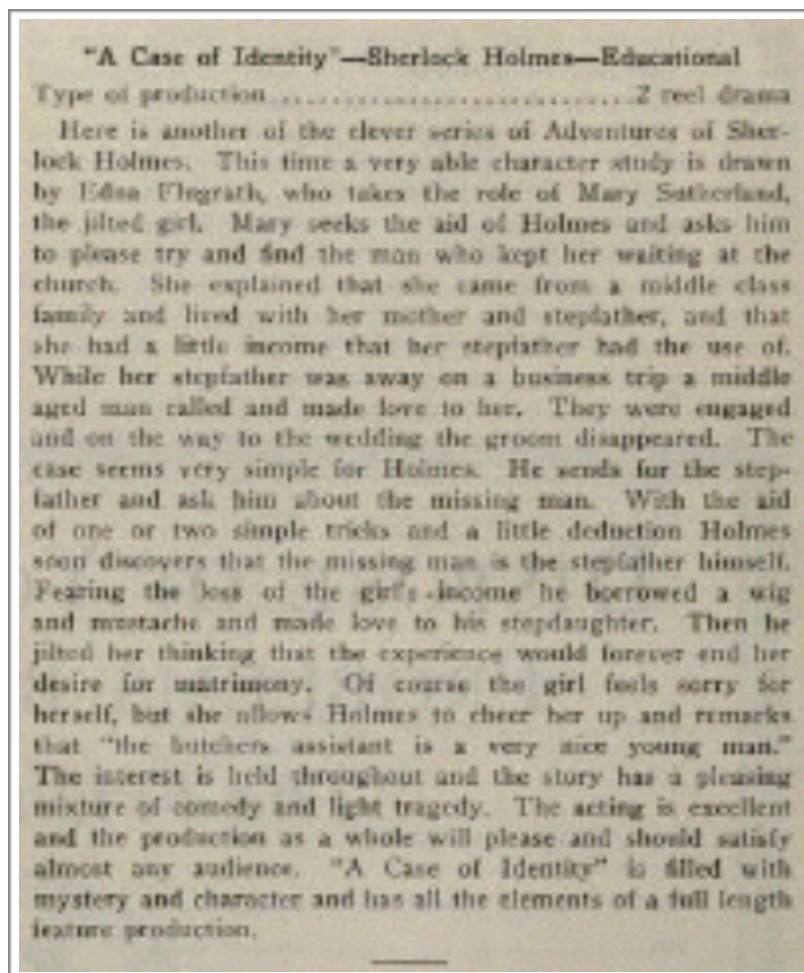
“The Devil’s Foot” can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4kJEneFse0>



Eille Norwood



Eille Norwood and Hubert Willis



A Case of Identity

1921 - “A Case of Identity”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1921 - “The Yellow Face”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1921 - “The Red-Headed League”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1921 - “The Resident Patient”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1921 - “A Scandal in Bohemia”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).



Eille Norwood and Arthur Conan Doyle

1921 - “The Man with the Twisted Lip”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

“The Man with the Twisted Lip” can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ic2QcSLOB4M>

1921 - “The Beryl Coronet”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1921 - “The Noble Bachelor”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1921 - “The Copper Beeches”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1921 - “The Empty House”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1921 - “The Tiger of San Pedro”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1921 - “The Priory School”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1921 - “The Solitary Cyclist”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).



The Hound of The Baskervilles

1921 - “The Hound of the Baskervilles”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

“The Hound of The Baskervilles” - “An English-made film built around one of A. Conan Doyle’s best Sherlock Holmes tales. Remember the story of the mysterious deaths and the weird dog flashing fires on the moors? There is considerable suspense although the thing

is maladroitly told. Dr. Watson has to write fearfully long letters to Holmes to get the plot along.”²²⁶



The Hound of the Baskervilles

You know the stories, you've read the stories, I'm not going to rehash all the plots of this series. The series tried to stick to the original plots. Still after having read numerous just so-so reviews (like the one above), and having watched the few films that have survived, I can't say I'm much of an Eille Norwood fan. The films had very short runs, most two weeks or less, but I'm not sure if that was due to the next in the series coming so quickly, the poor product, or the distribution problems (a story for a different essay) which had the films tied up in the courts on more than one occasion. Quantity not quality is the feeling I

get for this series of films, although others, such as the aforementioned Louise Penn, whom has viewed many more than I have, praised it.

With the Stoll films dominating the screens, there wouldn't be a lot else produced to compete with them. We have only found a couple of parodies and a few foreign films left to mention for the year 1921.

1921 - "Saetta piu forte di Sherlock Holmes" or, "An Arrow Stronger Than Sherlock Holmes". Eugenio d'Endremond as Sherlock Holmes?. Seatta Films (Italy).

1921 - "Das Detektivduell" or, "Harry Hill contra Sherlock Holmes" or, "The Dueling Detectives" or, "Harry Hill versus Sherlock Holmes". Actors unknown. Arnheim Films (Germany).

1921 - "Lya als Sherlock Holmes" or, "Lya as Sherlock Holmes". Actors unknown. Albert Löwenberg (Germany).

1921 - "The Hick on The Trail", Actors unknown. Clever Comedies Films.



The Hick on The Trail

The above "The Hick on The Trail" Ad says Philo Gubb as Sherlock Holmes in disguise and uses Sherlock Holmes' name in description.²²⁷

Wikipedia tells us - The character of Philo Gubb was created by Ellis Parker Butler and first appeared in the May 1913 issue of Redbook magazine. Philo Gubb attained such a high level of popularity that the author's attempt to kill the character off was derailed by public pressure. Philo Gubb is a small-town paperhanger who learned his deductive technique by correspondence course, and admires Sherlock Holmes.

²²⁷ "The Film Daily" June 8, 1921 pg. 1324

1921 - "**Sherlock Brown**", Bert Lytell (1885 - 1954) as William Sherlock Brown. Metro Films.



Bert Lytell

"**Sherlock Brown**" - The secret formula for the world's most powerful explosive has been stolen from the U.S. government. William Brown (Lytell), a clerk who aspires to be a detective, has just received his badge from some anonymous Midwestern agency (he paid all of 25 dollars for it), and manages to get himself embroiled in the intrigue. And he doesn't do too badly -- he actually gets his hands on the missing envelope, but then he's tricked by the thieves into giving it back to them. Instead of receiving his reward, he is ridiculed and his tin badge is soundly crushed. But all is not lost -- he remembers that the woman in possession of the envelope was wearing sandalwood perfume. He puts his olfactory senses to work, and after he's smelled just about everything he can find, he recovers the document again, gets a real detective badge, and wins his girl (Ora Carew)."²²⁸

Secret Service Story a Mixture of Melodrama and Farce

Bert Lytell in
"SHERLOCK BROWN"
 Metro

DIRECTOR Bayard Veiller
AUTHOR Bayard Veiller
SCENARIO BY Lenore Coffee
CAMERAMAN Arthur Martinelli
AS A WHOLE Mixture of melodrama and farce.
 Exciting and has plenty of laughs.
STORY Ordinary crook story with secret service stuff. Runs into many climaxes.
DIRECTION Very good. Gets a good deal of humor out of simple situations.
PHOTOGRAPHY Good.
LIGHTINGS All clear.
STAR Does first rate comedy work in this one. Role fits his character.
SUPPORT Adequate. Cast includes Ora Carew and Sylvia Breamer.
EXTERIORS Suitable.
INTERIORS Good.
DETAIL Enough.
CHARACTER OF STORY Priceless secret envelope stolen from U. S. Government. Amateur detective gets on trail with very comical results.
LENGTH OF PRODUCTION 4,600 feet.
 "You can't shoot us," cries the boob detective at one of the climaxes of this offering, "because I hold a bottle of nitro-glycerine." He banishes the bottle and saves the party. As soon as they are out of danger the boob detective shows you that the bottle contains only castor oil. This is typical of the many scenes contained in this offering. The changes from melodrama to farce are sudden and abrupt. The dramatic work is serious and intense while the comedy work broad farce. The mixture of the two makes a

satisfactory entertainment though it keeps one guessing right along. It steers two courses and is divided against itself.

Whenever the star appears the comedy begins, and as soon as the star goes off the picture drops back to serious drama. If you can imagine any first rate comedian as the hero of a very serious Sherlock Holmes drama, you would have a pretty good idea of the character of this Metro picture. Clever titles inserted in the serious sections would have helped greatly to hold the production to a more even level.

The star does first rate comedy work throughout the entire picture. He has been careful to give his work some intimate touches and some very appealing detail. The role fits him exceptionally well, and enables him to do some of his very best work. The interest is centered upon the star at all times, and he is supported by Ora Carew, who makes a very satisfactory leading lady. The cast is cooperative and adequate.

The offering is well directed and ably photographed. The exciting episodes will hold the attention and the comedy business is certain to get plenty of laughs.

Story: The formula for the world's most powerful explosive is stolen from the U. S. Government. The secret service is baffled; but William Brown, who got his badge from a Kansas detective agency, picks up the clue. He recovers the missing envelope but gives it to an accomplice of the thieves. Relieving the envelope safe he proceeds to claim the reward from the chief of the secret service. He is exposed, ridiculed and his tin badge crushed under foot. Once more he picks up the trail. He remembered that the woman to whom he gave the envelope used sandalwood scent. He smells everything and everybody until he recovers the missing documents and wins the reward of a real detective's badge, and the love of the girl.

Comedy Work and Star Certain To Please

Box Office Analysis for the Exhibitor

While the story presents little that is different in any way from the typical detective yarn you can nevertheless be certain that the comedy business and the work of the star will please and entertain your audience. Your big talking point is the boob detective idea. Play this up and use the star's name in your advertising. He does good work and is certain to satisfy.

Many exploitation angles present themselves. The title is a good one and will attract. Arrange a tie-up

with the corner drug stores for a display of various perfumes to link up with the sandalwood episodes. Catch lines could read: "He was only a boob detective with a tin badge but he had a nose for crime. See how 'Sherlock Brown' smells his way to fame."

Give them an idea of the mystery as it is presented by the crime in the opening shots of the picture. Also tell them how the boob got his detective badge from the fake agency.

Sherlock Brown

"Sherlock Brown" must have been a very funny film to have that long of a run. In the description reprinted above, we see that this was one Sherlock who had a 'NOSE' for detection and actually 'SMELLED' his way to success.

The year 1922 would see two major film occurrences in the Sherlockian film world. Eille Norwood and Stoll Films would continue pouring out films, this time a series of fifteen, known as 'The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes'. Yet, the biggest splash would belong to John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes", which featured a dream pairing of 'The Great Profile' and biggest film star, with the greatest profiler and literary star.

"The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"

1922 - "Charles Augustus Milverton", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - "The Abbey Grange", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - "The Norwood Builder", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - "The Reigate Squires", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - "The Naval Treaty", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - "The Second Stain", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - "The Red Circle", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - "The Six Napoleons", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - "Black Peter", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - "The Bruce Parkington Plans", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - "The Stockbroker's Clerk", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - “The Boscombe Valley Mystery”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - “The Musgrave Ritual”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - “The Golden Pince-Nez”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - “The Greek Interpreter”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.).

1922 - “Sherlock Holmes”, or, **“Moriarty”** (U.K.). John Barrymore (1882 - 1942) as Sherlock Holmes and Roland Young (1887 - 1953) as Dr. Watson. Goldwyn Pictures.



Roland Young and John Barrymore

“Sherlock Holmes” - What can one say, other than the number one box office Sherlock Holmes movie of the silent film era.

Across the Silversheet

The New Screen Plays In Review

By

ADELE WHITELY FLETCHER

BECAUSE an actor must have a definite personality, there are but a very few who are able to keep their own individuality subservient to the individuality of the character they are creating. John Barrymore, however, achieves this with the same success with which he achieves other things. So it was Sherlock Holmes which we enjoyed more than John Barrymore as Sherlock Holmes.

If we nurtured a belief in witchcraft we would believe that Barrymore transmitted the psychology of his characters to his audience by supernatural means. He sways his audience as the winds sway slender reeds— But his magic is that of the artist and of the craftsman. His technique is colored by the great imagination with which he endows his work. By a hundred and one subtleties he portrays that which others fail to capture even after going to great lengths in their desire to achieve it.

Even to those rare souls who have not read Conan Doyle's story of the great detective whose lightning deductions astonished the greatest minds of England, Sherlock Holmes is not a stranger. And in stepping from the covers of the novel to the screen, the character has lost no interest.

The production, possessing a very definite artistic quality, also is interspersed with sensational episodes which jog the senses. The



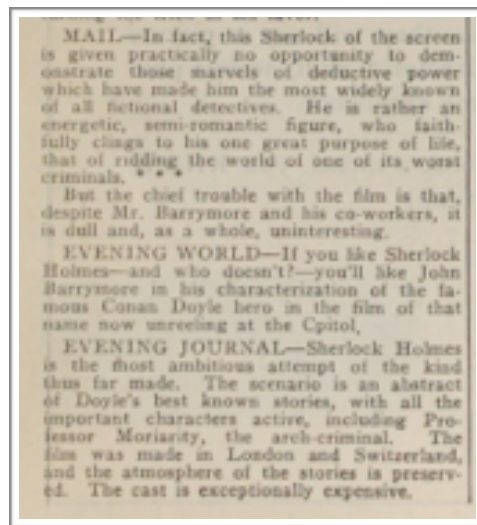
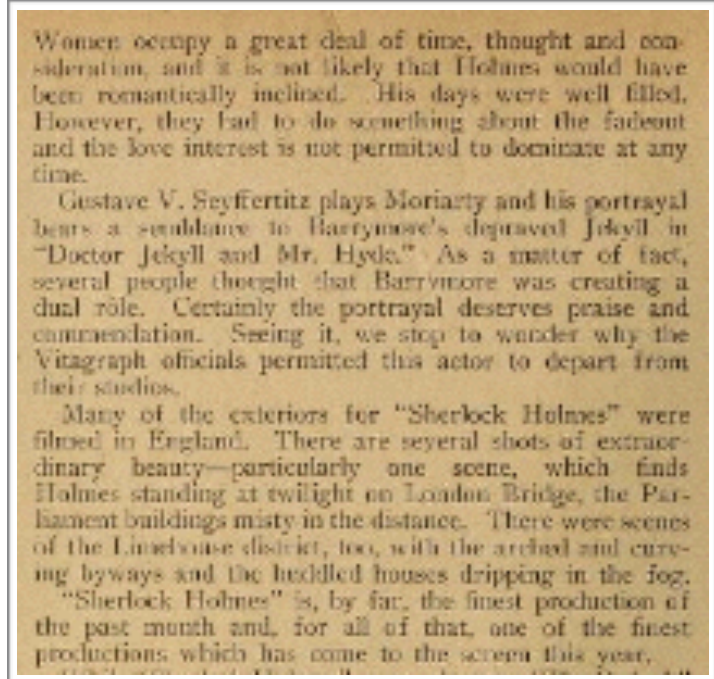
Above is John Barrymore in "Sherlock Holmes." This is, by far, the finest production of the past month, and, for all of that, one of the finest productions that has come to the screen this year. At the left is Constance Talmadge in "The Primitive Lover," a production which is an improvement on the recent offerings in which she appeared.



thread of suspense is maintained at something of a tension throughout the story of how Holmes foils the fiendish ends of Moriarty. Moriarty is forced to seek his dwelling farther and farther under ground—first in cellars and then in sub-cellars in order to escape the persecution of Holmes.

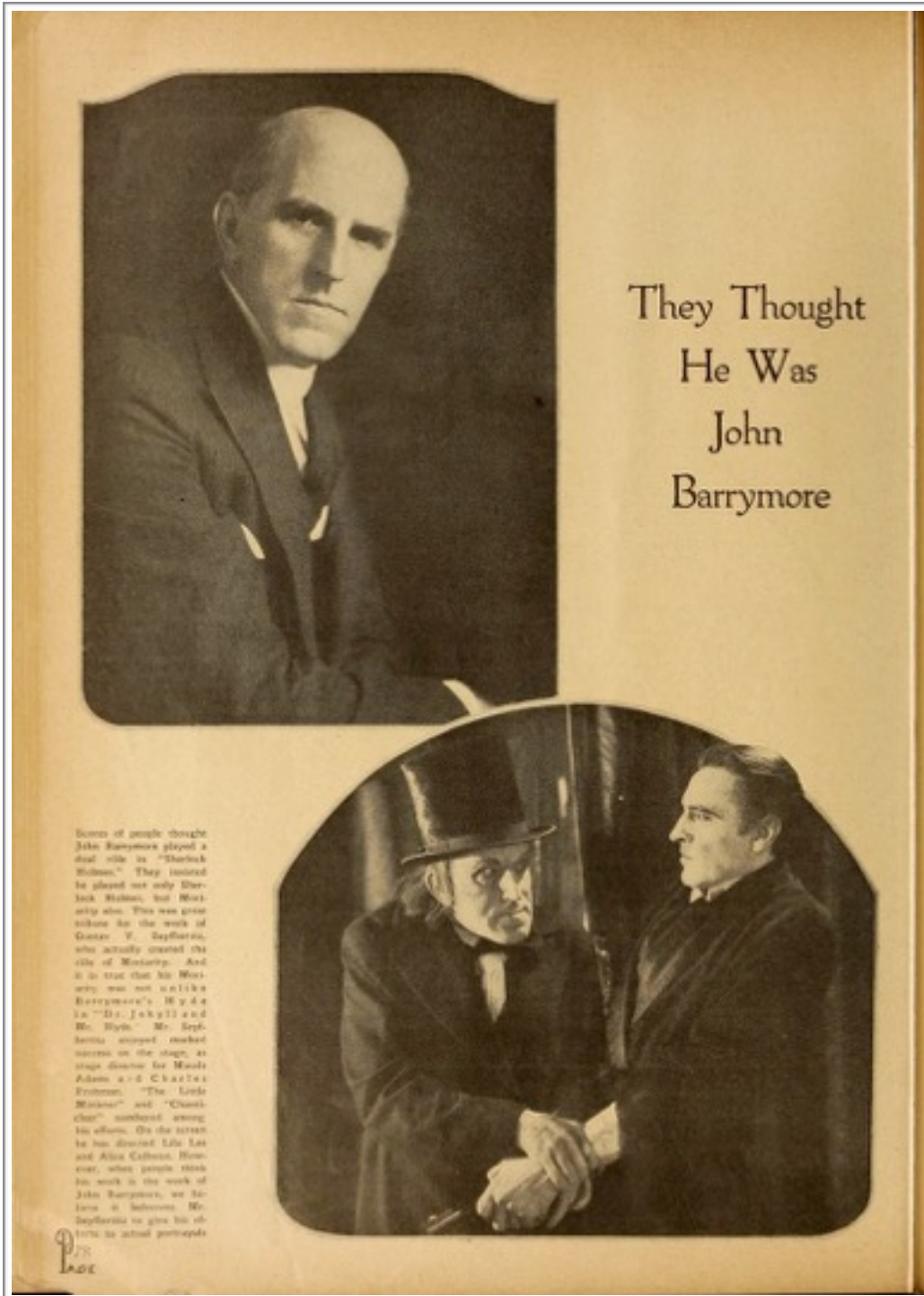
The love interest, with Carol Dempster playing the girl Sherlock eventually marries, was the creation of the scenarist, for Conan Doyle did not bless his detective with an innamorata.

67
PAC



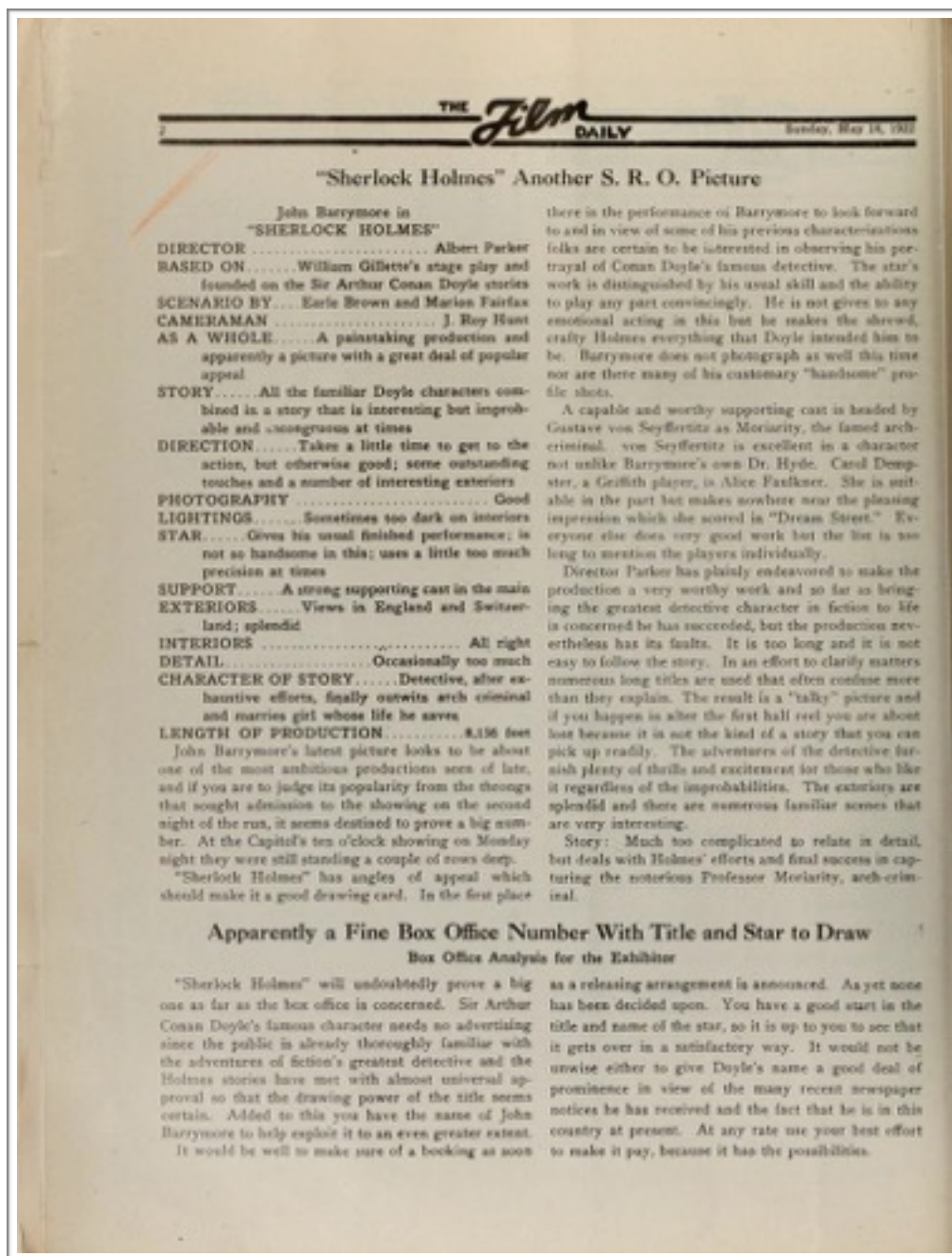
Columns of first day reviews for John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes"²²⁹

You can view a few minutes of John Barrymore as Sherlock Holmes at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLKeWcClxyc&feature=youtu.be>



Moriarty

See Barrymore meet Moriarty at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBXmxqYcI0Q>



Standing Room Only Box Office Numbers and Top Star

A rundown on plot and all aspects of John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" is above.²³⁰
 Reminder, you can view a few minutes of John Barrymore as Sherlock Holmes at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLKeWcClxyc&feature=youtu.be>

1922 - “The Affected Detective”, Cecil Mannering as a famous sleuth who liked cocaine. Revue Films (U.K.).

“The Affected Detective” - A detective under the influence of cocaine imagines he is tracking down criminals in the far away Orient.

1922 - “Jazz Hounds”, Lawrence Chenault, the man in the Sherlockian garb. Reol Productions.



Lawrence Chenault

“Both censorship records and lobby cards for the film suggest that Reol's two-reel comedy ‘The Jazz Hounds’ borrowed liberally from the Ebony Film Corporation's popular (1918) Black Sherlock Holmes character. The Chicago Board of Censors' synopsis describes the plot of ‘The Jazz Hounds’ as ‘Fake detective's episodes’. One lobby card depicts a lighter-skinned Black man in a deerstalker cap and matching cape interrogating two ‘zip coon’ characters, who consume fried chicken with gusto in another still.”²³¹

1922 - “Camillo Emulo di Sherlock Holmes”, or **“Camillo Emulated Sherlock Holmes”**. Alberto Albertini (1898 - 1957) as Camillo? Caesar Films (Italy).

²³¹ Petersen, Christina -Film History | July 1, 2008 | “The ‘Reol’ story: race authorship and consciousness in Robert Levy's Reol Productions, 1921-1926”

It would seem Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a fan of Eille Norwood's performances. Doyle stated, "He has that rare quality which can only be described as glamour, which compels you to watch an actor eagerly. He has the brooding eye which excites expectation and he also has a quite unrivaled power of disguise." The year 1923 would give us fifteen more short films ("The Last Adventures of Sherlock Holmes") and one more feature film ("The Sign of Four") from Stoll Pictures with Norwood. This gave them a grand total of forty-five short films and two feature films, and forever secured a place for Eille Norwood in the film history of Sherlock Holmes.

To see Eille Norwood's power of disguise check out "All Change" - "A Rapid Make-up" study of Mr. Eille Norwood in 'The Return of Sherlock Holmes' at the Princes Theatre, London at: <http://www.britishpathe.com/video/all-change>

"The Last Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"

1923 - "Silver Blaze", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

1923 - "The Speckled Band", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

1923 - "The Gloria Scott", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

1923 - "The Engineer's Thumb", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

1923 - "His Last Bow", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

1923 - "The Cardboard Box", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

1923 - "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

1923 - "The Three Students", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

1923 - "The Missing Three Quarter", Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

1923 - “The Blue Carbuncle”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)



Eille Norwood and Hubert Willis

1923 - “The Mystery of Thor Bridge”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

1923 - “The Stone of Mazarin”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

1923 - “The Mystery of the Dancing Men”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

1923 - “The Crooked Man”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

1923 - “The Final Problem”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Hubert Willis as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

1923 - “The Sign of Four”, Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes and Arthur M. Cullin as Dr. Watson. Stoll Pictures (U.K.)

In the feature length “The Sign of Four”, Norwood’s final film, Hubert Willis was replaced by a younger looking actor Arthur M. Cullin to better facilitate the storyline of Watson's wooing of Miss Mary Morstan. A technique repeated in the 1930’s when Ian Fleming was replaced by Ian Hunter in the Arthur Wontner production.

We would also get our first Czechoslovakian Holmes in 1923.

1923 - “Únos Bankéře Fuxe, or, “The Banker Fuchs” - Eman Fiala as Sherlock Holmes II. Elektafilm (Czech.)



Eman Fiala

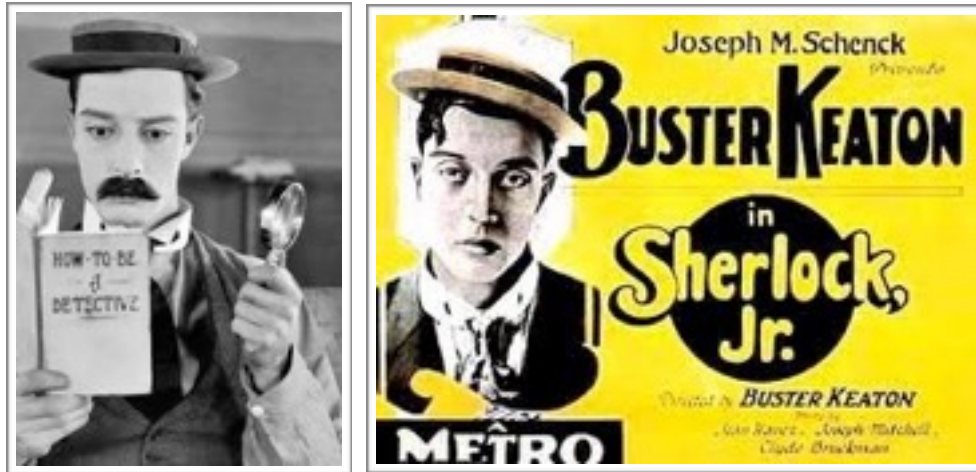
“The Kidnapping of Fux Banker” (Únos bankéře Fuxe) (1923) a Czech comedy. “The banker Fux and his creditor Tom Darey want to get married. The banker's daughter Daisy in her father's name, put an advertisement in a paper. She wants father to meet her friend Maud. She, herself, makes the acquaintance of Darey who has her followed by detective Sherlock Holmes II. The latter finds her and tries to kidnap her but he takes her father instead. After a number of intrigues, all ends well. Holmes is let off the hook and Tom and the banker win their girls.”²³² A Czech version of the Keystone Kops. Eman Fiala would also appear in the 1932 Czech film “Lelicek in the Services of Sherlock Holmes”, but with the more famous Martin Fric playing Sherlock Holmes role.

Watch it at: [https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnIjzjMsgYg&list=PL500C217F042A037E&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnIjzjMsgYg&list=PL500C217F042A037E&index=2)

Following the flood of Eille Norwood Sherlock Holmes films by Stoll Film Co. from (1921 - 1923), and the hugh success and long run of Barrymore’s “Sherlock Holmes, and with ‘talkies’ on the horizon, the golden age of Sherlock Holmes in silent films was beginning to come to a close. One very popular film would still surface in 1924, that being “Sherlock Jr.” starring Buster Keaton.

²³² Lamač, Ondra, ‘Karel Lamač - Únos bankéře Fuxe 2’ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnIjzjMsgYg&list=PL500C217F042A037E&index=2>

1924 - “**Sherlock Jr.**”- Buster Keaton as Sherlock Jr. Buster Keaton Productions.



Buster Keaton

“Sherlock Jr.” - “A projectionist is studying to be a detective and is in love with a young lady. When he proposes her, his rival steals the chain watch of her father and incriminates him. The disappointed young projectionist returns to his job and while projecting the film, he dreams on being the detective of the story. Meanwhile, the girl finds the truth and acquits the guilty of the projectionist to her father.”²³³

"It is not generally known that Fatty Arbuckle directed Buster Keaton's 'Sherlock Jr.' His name on the screen as director appears as Will B. Good! Thus adding a comedy touch - if you get it."²³⁴

Watch Buster Keaton in “Sherlock Jr.” at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwL1yluITwg>

In paging through 1924 “Photoplay” magazines I came across many good reviews for "Sherlock Holmes", "Sherlock Brown", and "Sherlock Jr." I also came across many bad reviews for Stoll's "Return of Sherlock Holmes", "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" and “The Last Adventures of Sherlock Holmes”, one gets a sense that perhaps Eille Norwood is a bit overrated as a great Holmes, at least according to American film reviewers and fans. But what do Americans know, they accept Jonny Lee Miller as a great Holmes, lol!, and wink, wink to the “Elementary” fans.

For the rest of 1924 we have the films which follow.

²³³ <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0015324/>

²³⁴ Photoplay Magazine Jul-Dec 1924. Vol 26-27 pg. 73

1924 - "The Telephone Girl" - a series - Fourth Episode entitled **"Sherlock's Home"**
- Alberta Vaughn (1904 - 1992) as Gladys Murgatroyd. Film Booking Offices of America.



Sherlock's Home

"Sherlock's Home" - "Gladys falls for a prizefighter who has invited his entire hometown to watch his fight in New York City. However, he gets crazy jealous when he sees Gladys at the fight sitting next to Jimmy. After the bout is over, he sets out for the hotel to teach Jimmy a lesson."²³⁵ Only connection to Sherlock Holmes seems to be title.

1924 - "Trailing Trouble" - Buddy Messinger (1907 - 1965) as a detective, studying under Sherlock Holmes. Century Film.



Buddy Messinger

"Trailing Trouble" - "Buddy Messinger is a would be detective, studying under Sherlock Holmes, who in this case, has a young daughter and a designing sister who plans to get his home away from him "²³⁶

²³⁵ <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0781484/>

²³⁶ "The Film Daily" (Volume 27-28) Jan - Jun 1924 Pg. 12

1924 - “The Mysterious Mystery!” - Mickey Daniels (1914 - 1970) as Sherlock Hawkshaw and Joe Cobb (1916 - 2002) as Watson. Hal Roach Studios.



Mickey Daniels

“The Mysterious Mystery!” - Our Gang has Mickey Daniels doing an impersonation of Sherlock Holmes and Joe Cobb being Watson as the two try to discover the whereabouts of a young rich kid who has gone missing. While trying to find the kid the gang must also try and avoid a dumb detective also working the case.”²³⁷

Watch “The Mysterious Mystery!” at: <https://archive.org/details/TheMysteriousMystery>

With the ‘talkies’ on the doorstep, we would only have a sparse sprinkling of Sherlock Holmes silent films for the years (1925 - 1930). It is however, an atypical assortment of films, which includes a Laurel without a Hardy, and a Laurel with a Hardy, marionettes, Felix the Cat, and a fellow who would much rather be in Philadelphia. So to conclude this series of essays on silent Sherlocks let’s take a look at the list of the who, what, where, and whens for the final years of the fabulous Silent Sherlock films era.

1925 - “Sherlock Sleuth”, Arthur Stone (1883 - 1940) as Cyril Fromage, or Sherlock Holmes as house detective. Hal Roach Studios.

²³⁷ <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0235610/>



Arthur Stone

“Sherlock Sleuth” - “Arthur Stone, all but forgotten today, stars as Cyril Fromage, the house detective of the Hotel Omigosh. The lovely Martha Sleeper (Pass The Gravy) is his sweetheart, the hotel switchboard operator with Noah Young on board as the house manager. It seems a dastardly thief, "The Weasel" is on the loose in the hotel, assisted by a sultry vamp. The action that follows, and there is plenty of it, concerns Cyril's efforts to catch the thief. Plenty of hilarious gags along the way; a favorite involved Miss Sleeper taking a call from an irate lodger, so hot that it makes the switchboard steam. Taking advantage of the situation, she pulls out the offending plug and uses it to curl her bangs. The MGM lion even puts in a guest appearance.”²³⁸

1925 - “The Sleuth”, Stan Laurel (1890 - 1965) as Webster Dingle. Joe Rock Comedies.



²³⁸ Paxson, Jenny http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0415270/plotsummary?ref=tt_ov_pl

“The Sleuth” - Webster Dingle (Stan Laurel) is a detective who essentially relies on an assortment of different costumes to successfully complete his investigations.



Stan Laurel

1925 - "**The Sage Brush Sherlock**", Art Acord (1890 - 1931) as Steve Caldwell. Universal Studios. It appears they released this film as “Call of Courage”.



Art Acord

"The Sage Brush Sherlock," from L. V. Jefferson's "Horse Sense," is to be Art Acord's next for Universal, with Cliff Smith directing."²³⁹

“In his final film for Universal, Art Acord went through the paces of playing the innocent cowhand falsely accused of a killing that was actually committed by his brother (Duke R. Lee). Acord's battle with the bottle was catching up with him and studio head Carl Laemmle fired him for the final time. Leaving Universal, Acord found employment with

²³⁹ "The Film Daily" (Volume 31--34) Jan - Dec 1925 Page 5 - August 24, 1925

poverty row producer J. Charles Davis before dying under mysterious circumstances in the Mexican desert.”²⁴⁰

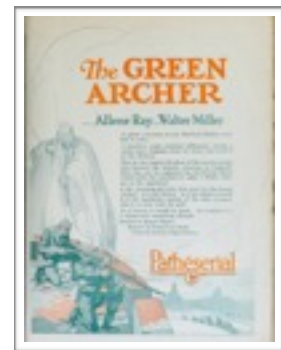
1925 - "Spooky Spooks", Jack Cooper (1890 - 1970) as Sherlock Bones. Samuel Bischoff Productions.



Jack Cooper

“Spooky Spooks” - Two villains have Jimmy the messenger boy deliver a threatening letter to an Englishman in a spooky house. Jimmy falls for the Englishman’s daughter, and sends for the famous detective Sherlock Bones. When the villains arrive things go wild with skeletons, spooks, men in armored suits and everything you expect to see in a haunted house.²⁴¹

This "The Green Archer" (1925) Pathe Exchange ad is an example of a silent film which has nothing to do with Sherlock Holmes, yet, the first sentence of the full page ad is; “As great a mystery as any Sherlock Holmes ever had to solve.” If a silent film was a mystery, or involved a detective, Sherlock Holmes always seemed to get a mention, a comparison, a parody of, or appeared with a name change. Sherlock Holmes was most certainly the definitive gold standard for the mystery genre.



²⁴⁰ Hans J. Wollstein <http://www.nytimes.com/movies/movie/86449/Call-of-Courage/overview>

²⁴¹ "The Film Daily" (Volume 31--34) Jan - Dec 1925 Page 9 - October 4, 1925

1926 - “The Radio Detective”- Jack Mower (1890 - 1965) as the American Sherlock Holmes, Craig Kennedy. Universal Pictures.



Jack Mower

Craig Kennedy, the American Sherlock Holmes, battles the villains out to get hold of an invention called Evansite, that would revolutionize the radio.

1926 - “Slick Sleuths”- A Mutt and Jeff Cartoon. Modern Film Sales Corp.

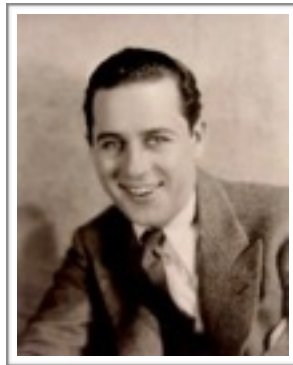


Slick Sleuths

A cartoon released theatrically. Private eyes Mutt and Jeff are on the trail of the ghostly shape-shifting criminal, the Phantom. Revised and re-released in 1930 in color with sound.

You can watch the re-released 1930 version of “Slick Sleuths” at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9W08fo5RJl0>

1927 - “The Perfect Sap”- Ben Lyon (1901 - 1979) as a rich boy Herbert Allen, who tries to be a Sherlock Holmes. First National Film



Ben Lyon

"The Perfect Sap" - Review of Current Films - "An amusing tale of a rich boy who tries to be a Sherlock Holmes. Ben Lyon's best picture in a long time."²⁴²

1927 - “Sherlock’s Rival”- "Fortune Hunters" series 2 reels - 1st in a series of 5. Actors unknown. Sun Pictures.

1927 - “Do Detectives Think”- Oliver Hardy (1892 - 1957) as Sherlock Pinkham. Pathe Exchange.



Oliver Hardy

After watching “Do Detectives Think” at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1a3rseggDY> it would seem the only Sherlockian connection here is Oliver Hardy’s name.

²⁴² Photoplay Magazine Jul-Dec 1924. Vol 26-27 Pg. 13

1927 - "Two Flaming Youths"- Two great comedians W.C. Fields (1880 - 1946) as circus owner Gabby Gilfoil and Chester Conklin (1886 - 1971), as a sheriff who thinks Sherlock Holmes was an amateur compared with him team-up in this parody for Paramount Pictures. W. C. Fields played Sherlock Baffles as far back as 1904-06 in vaudeville and in below photo dressed as him on the set of "You Can't Cheat an Honest Man in 1939.



W. C. Fields

"Circus owner Gabby Gilfoil finds himself at odds with the county sheriff, Ben Holden, because of bad debts, and the sheriff is deluded into thinking the good-hearted carney to be one and the same as the notorious Slippery Sawtelle, whose mug is gracing \$1,500 "wanted" posters all over the county. Gilfoil could use a like amount to help pretty Miss Malarkey out of a financial debt to Simeon Trott, but he must elude the persistent sheriff. Holden finally nails the real Sawtelle."²⁴³

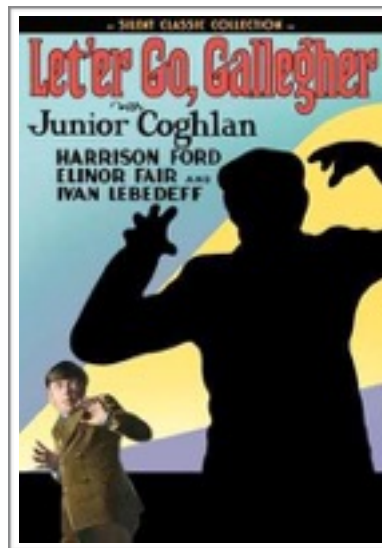


Ad - Two Flaming Youths²⁴⁴

²⁴³ TCM.com

²⁴⁴ "The Film Daily" (Volume 39--42) Jul - Dec 1927 Pg. 3

1928 - "Let 'Er Go Gallagher" - Junior Coghlan (1916 - 2009) as the young Sherlock Holmes. Pathe-Demille.



Junior Coghlan

"Let 'Er Go Gallagher" - "Cast: Junior Coghlan great as the young Sherlock Holmes. Harrison Ford first rate as the egotistical reporter. Ivan Lebedeff the notorious "Four Fingers," famous crook..."Young John Gallagher wants to be a newspaper reporter. One day he witnesses a murder committed by a mysterious man with only four fingers on one hand. He gives his account of the murder and a description of the killer to his hero, newsman Henry Callahan, resulting in his getting a job on the paper as an office boy. When circumstances arise that result in Callahan losing his job on the paper, he and Gallagher set out to discover the identity of the killer and help Callahan get his job back."²⁴⁵ (and no kids - that's not the Indiana Jones or Hans Solo, Harrison Ford - he may be old, but he's not that old!)

1928 - "The Oily Bird" - Felix the Cat cartoon. Educational.

"The Oily Bird" - "Felix the Cat is accused by the lady of the house of stealing her jewels. He sets out to find the real criminal, who proves to be a wise old hen. Felix the Cat does a regular Sherlock Holmes, and at last tracks down the guilty one."²⁴⁶

²⁴⁵ "The Film Daily" (Volume 43--46) Jan - Dec 1928 pg. 170

²⁴⁶ "The Film Daily" (Volume 43--46) Jan - Dec 1928 Page 13 - March 4, 1928

1928 - "Sure-Locked Homes"- Felix the Cat cartoon. Educational.



Felix the Cat

"Sure-Locked Homes" - "Felix starts out to do a real Sherlock Holmes and the atmosphere is worked up in the real detective thriller fashion with clever cartoon work. There is the Bat and the Spider, and the latter is made a partner by Felix to help the cat sleuth capture the criminals. So he has the spider spin a web to capture the villains."²⁴⁷

See Felix the Cat in "Sure-Locked Homes" at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjUehiO5eM>

1929 - "Der Hund von Baskerville" or, "Hound of the Baskervilles" - Carlyle Blackwell Sr. (1884 - 1955) as Sherlock Holmes and George Seroff as Dr. Watson. Erda-Film GmbH. (Germany).



Carlyle Blackwell Sr. and George Seroff

This film is being restored and is expected to be available for viewing by 2020. Read "The Hound of the Baskervilles - On the Trail of a Lost Film" by Benedikt Grawe for full information about, and spectacular photos from, this film at: http://othes.univie.ac.at/28857/1/2013-06-23_0303961.pdf

²⁴⁷ "The Film Daily" (Volume 43--46) Jan - Dec 1928 Page 7 - May 13, 1928

1930 - “The Lime Juice Mystery”, or “Who Spat in Grandfather’s Porridge”
Marionettes as Herlock Sholmes and Anna Went Wrong. Joseph Seidon Productions.

“The Lime Juice Mystery” - Sherlock Holmes parody made with puppets.



Herlock Sholmes

Watch “The Lime Juice Mystery” at;
<https://archive.org/details/TheLimejuiceMysteryOrWhoSpatInGrandfathersPorridge>

An Epilogue in Five Reels

There's a satisfying 'Watsonian' artistry about locating the close of the Silent Sherlock Era in 1930, the very year of Conan Doyle's death . But, in the words of Sherlock Holmes (recorded by the good doctor but 4 years earlier): "Cut out the poetry, Watson!". Our film does not end there...I present for your delectation not one but two post-1930 Silent Sherlock reels.

Reel One (1931)

1931 - “福爾摩斯偵探案”, or “Fu er mo si zhen tan an”, or "Sherlock Holmes Detects The Case" or "Stories of Sherlock Holmes". Li Pingqian (1902 - 1984) as Sherlock Holmes. Shao Zuiweng Films.

“During a burglary of his mansion, wealthy businessman Yang Bofan is murdered. Concluding it happened when he accidentally walked in on the intruders and sent them into panic, the police launch a citywide dragnet for suspects, concentrating on known burglars. But one person apparently uninvolved in the case has doubts: a young woman, a shopkeeper named Shen Liyun, comes to consulting detective Sherlock Holmes and asks him to look into the case. She explains that several months earlier the murdered man had begun regular visits to her shop and gradually made her acquaintance, inquiring into her

background, getting to know her, and offering business and financial advice. Her mysterious benefactor even invested in her small business so she could expand it. But while the young woman was puzzled by the older man's attention to her, at no time did she feel his kindness was out of romantic interest. Whatever his motivation, she



Li Pingqian

feels he deserves the investigation be widened to ensure justice is done. Holmes accepts the case, and in a search of the victim's mansion he uncovers clues the police had missed, which lead him to an amusement park. There he finds additional clues that lead Holmes and his friend Watson to a seedy tavern, located at No.13 Waterfront Road, an address matching that on an envelope found in the victim's mansion. The tavern is actually the secret headquarters of a criminal gang, and the two investigators have walked into a trap. They are captured and locked up in a cellar. Holmes is able to find a way out through a tunnel, so the two escape and go to the police, but when they raid the tavern, the police find it cleaned out and abandoned. Holmes and Watson return home to learn there has been an attempt on Shen Liyun's life, for no apparent reason. This strange attack on the young woman steers Holmes into exploring an alternate path of investigation. After further inquiries and serious thinking, he disguises himself as a beggar and enters a cave where many beggars live. After talking to various beggars, he uncovers another clue in one's possession, a pearl stolen during the robbery. When Holmes finds out how the beggar obtained it, he leads the police back to the mansion. There, Holmes explains how the clues led him to this resolution of the mystery: the murder was the real objective and the robbery was actually a diversionary action to cover it up. Also, the mysterious attack on Shen Liyun was directly related to the crime. The villain behind the plot was Yang Bofan's younger brother Yang Jifan, who hired the gang to commit the robbery and murder. Jifan's motive: his elder brother had learned the young shopkeeper was his long-lost daughter from an early love affair, and after locating his only child and mentoring her in business, Yang Bofan was planning to leave his own business and his entire fortune to her instead of Jifan.”²⁴⁸

²⁴⁸ <http://www.chinesemirror.com/index/2013/01/>

Reel Two (2013)

2013 - "Sherlock Holmes and the Stolen Emerald". Edward Daw as Sherlock Holmes and David Forde as Dr. Watson. A Celine Terranova Production.



Edward Daw as Sherlock Holmes and David Forde

"Sherlock Holmes and the Stolen Emerald" (2013) is a six-minute comedic short silent film. The premise is that Watson is the real genius of the duo, it features several characters dressed in exuberant steampunk attires. From an original idea by Celine Terranova, this short film was initially developed in May 2012 and financed thanks to a funding campaign on IndieGoGo. The film was shot at Bart's Pathology Museum in London in two weekends in early 2013. Word is they will be making a sequel, and it will be called "Sherlock Holmes and the Wrath of Moriarty." More information can be found on Facebook, or twitter (@StolenEmerald).

Reels Three, Four, & Five (2013)

Republic Picture Studios, an independent film studios dedicated to entertaining the public with quality films, and encourage many others to make films of their own, established in 2016, put out three silent Sherlock Holmes through the Facebook platform, before announcing they would be coming out in sound with their next series.

All three of their films listed below can be viewed at the Republic Picture Studios FaceBook site at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Republic-Pictures-Studios-1068883423151024/?pnref=lhc>

2016 - "The Thief of Berkley Square". Micah Ignacio as Sherlock Holmes and Sean Bainter as Dr. Watson. A Republic Picture Studios Production.



Micah Ignacio and Sean Bainter

Holmes and Watson pursue the watch thief of Berkley Square in an old time slobberknocker.

2016 - "The Thistle Killer". Micah Ignacio as Sherlock Holmes and Sean Bainter as Dr. Watson. A Republic Picture Studios Production.



Micah Ignacio and Sean Bainter

Inspector Lestrade comes to Holmes for help in finding a strangler who leaves thistles by the victims bodies.

2016 - "The Deadly Necklace!". Micah Ignacio as Sherlock Holmes and Sean Bainter as Dr. Watson. A Republic Picture Studios Production.



Micah Ignacio and Sean Bainter

Wake-up Watson, there's been a murder! A note says there is to be a meeting, will Holmes take the place of the murder victim at the meeting? Who is the mastermind of this murder and who has missing necklace?

Sherlock Lives On!

Finally, I'd like to thank some people who assisted a great deal with this essay (whether they realized it or not).

Ray Wilcockson - who allows me to bounce ideas off him and always quickly replies with wit and wisdom. Follow Ray on twitter at; [@raywilcockson](https://twitter.com/raywilcockson)

Ross K. Foad - who posts these essays and all-sorts of other great Sherlockian videos and whatnots on his web-site; www.nplh.co.uk

Phil Bergem - who has made available an excellent "Checklist of Sherlock Holmes (and Holmes related) Films and Television Programs" which you can download for free at; http://www.sherlocktron.com/SH_Films.pdf

Also Peter Blau and Alexander Orlov, two wonderful sources of information, who never seem to let me down when I throw, what I think may be, a tough question about the great detective at them.